









## Intimation.

# Powell's

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

NOW CLEARING

The remainder of their

stock of LADIES'

## COLOURED GLOVES

at

\$1.50 a pair.

## FOWNE'S AND DENT'S

3 and 4 Button

SUEDE

(Fawn, Tan, Beaver)

\$1.50 a pair.

## FOWNE'S AND DENT'S

3 and 4 Button

KID

(Grey, Slate, Tan, Beaver)

\$1.50 a pair.

## USUAL PRICE

## \$2.75 AND \$3.00 A PAIR.

## POWELL'S HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1907.

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

In happy dreamland, not so far  
From this dull world of mist and rain,  
You came to me from out your star,  
And left this thought as a refrain:  
"I hope that we shall meet again."

Do you remember that good-night?  
You took my hand and said to me,  
If only we could travel back  
The golden stairs of memory,  
That lead to this, then we should see  
That life is other than it seems.  
That good is all, and all is good;  
We only thought it small and mean  
Because we had not understood,  
The steady life, the passing mood.

I bring the memory of your voice  
Back to this world of mist and rain,  
And with it light from both our Heavens,  
And life is whole, and glad, and sane,  
I know that we shall meet again.

—Pall Mall Gazette.

## COMMERCIAL.

## WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. write under yesterday's date:—"During the week under review, business in our share market has been very quiet, and the transactions recorded have been few."

Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks are weak and sellers predominate at \$89½. A small parcel changed hands at \$89. The London quotation has dropped to £104. Nationals have improved to \$11.

Marine Insurance.—Cantons continue on offer at \$295, after reported sales at this rate. Unions are in demand at \$89. North Chinas are strong at \$11.80.

Fire Insurance.—China Fires are firm at \$90 ex the dividend of \$3 per share paid to-day. Hongkong Fires have been sold at \$340 ex the dividend of \$10 paid to-day, and shares are obtainable at \$342½.

Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboats after sales at \$197 are in request at this rate. Indo Chinas have declined to \$83 with sellers. Shell Transports have strengthened to 41½ closing in demand. China & Manilas are quoted at \$20. The other shipping stocks are unchanged.

Refineries.—China Sugars continue to decline, and are offering at \$122. Luzons are weak at \$21.

Mining.—Chines Engineering have changed hands at \$15, and there are further buyers in the North. Rubis are slightly better, and after sales at \$8½ are now quoted at \$8½.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharves are easier and obtainable at \$93. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are out of favour and there are sellers at \$133. Shanghai Docks remain at \$1.10, and are wanted. Hongkew Wharves have receded to \$11; 232½ and are weak.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Hongkong Hotels are steady at \$118 ex the dividend of \$5 paid on the 6th inst. Hongkong Lands are firm at \$107. Humphreys Estates can be obtained at \$114. Shanghai Land have sellers at \$11. 102 for the old shares.

Cotton Mills.—Ewos have dropped to \$15. 73 with buyers. Foy Chees are quoted at \$15. 370 ex the div. of \$15. 50 per share paid on the 5th March.

Miscellaneous.—China Light & Powers have changed hands at \$9. An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company is advertised to be held on the 14th March, when the subjoined resolutions will be proposed:—"That the articles of association be altered by striking out the words 'per cent. on gross receipts, in clause 6 of Article XI and by substituting therefor the words '10 per cent. on the net annual profits mentioned in the first clause of Article XVI.'—That the general managers be and they are hereby authorised to create and issue 5,000 debentures of \$100 each carrying interest at 6 per cent. per annum and to be secured by charge upon the whole undertaking of the Company.—That the capital of the company be increased by the creation of 5,000 new shares of one dollar each to be called special shares and that there be attached to the said shares the rights following, viz:—"The holders of the said shares shall be entitled to elect in proportion to the numbers held by them respectively to one half of the net profits of the Company which it shall from time to time be determined to divide and to one half of the assets which in a winding up shall be available for distribution among the members.—No dividend shall be paid before the year one thousand nine hundred and eight and all shares will rank equally for dividend without respect to their face value.—That the said debentures be offered for subscription to the shareholders in the Company on the register on the 31st day of March, 1907 at the price of \$90 per \$100 debenture to be paid by such instalments as the general managers determine, and upon the terms that each subscriber for any of the said debentures shall in respect of every debenture subscribed for by him be entitled to an allotment of ten of the said special shares upon payment of par value, and that if the said debentures shall be over subscribed by the shareholders the subscribers shall be entitled to rank for allotment as nearly as may be in proportion to the shares so held by them and that any of the debentures and shares not taken by the shareholders may be disposed of on such terms and in such manner as the general managers think fit. China Provident have been sold at \$8½. \$8.90, and \$9 and more shares are wanted at \$8.90. Sales of Green Island Cement have taken place at \$20 ex the div. of \$14 paid on the 4th inst, and more shares are obtainable. Hongkong Electric are offering at \$16. Langkats are in demand at \$11. 262½. Watsons have been sold at \$12 closing with buyers at \$12.10. Sumatras are in demand at \$11. 115. The accounts of the liquidators of the Hongkong High Level Tramways Co., Ltd., ending February 28th, 1907, is published, including the sum of \$2,795.28 brought forward from November 30th, 1904, the profit and loss account shows a credit balance of \$38,937.50. A first dividend in liquidation of \$10 per share, which absorbed \$25,000, was paid to shareholders on the 3rd September, 1906, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$11.15 per share absorbing \$13,937.50 which closes the account of the old Company.

## Intimation.

## FOUNDED IN HONOUR.

No doubt you have seen in the papers such announcements as this—concerning some medicine or other:—"If, on trial, you write that this medicine has done you no good we will refund your money."—Now, we have never had reason to speak in that way concerning the remedy named in this article. In a trade extending throughout the world, nobody has ever complained that our medicine has failed, or asked for the return of his money. The public never grumbles at honestly and skillfully made bread, or at a medicine which really and actually does what it was made to do. The foundations of

**WAMPOLE'S PREPARATION** are laid in sincerity and honour, the knowledge of which on the part of the people explains its popularity and success. There is nothing to disguise or conceal. It was not dreamed out, or discovered by accident; it was studied out, on the solid principles of applied medical science. It is palatable as honey and contains all the nutritive and curative properties of Pure Cod Liver Oil, extracted by us from fresh cod livers, combined with the Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites and the Extracts of Malt and Wild Cherry. This remedy is praised by all who have employed it in any of the diseases it is recommended to relieve and cure, and is effective from the first dose. In Anemia, Scrofula, Nervous and General Debility, Influenza, La Grippe, and Throat and Lung Troubles, it is a specific. It is precisely what it is said to be, and has won the confidence of the public on that basis. You may resort to it with a faith and hope that arise from the history of what it has done for others. Dr. Thos. Hunstuck says: "The continued use of it in my practice, convinces me that it is the most palatable, least nauseating, and best preparation now on the market." One bottle proves its intrinsic value. "You cannot be disappointed in it." Sold by chemists throughout the world.

## Public Companies.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

## NOTICE.

THE TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents, on WEDNESDAY, the 27th March, at 11 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to 27th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON &amp; Co., General Agents.

Hong Kong, 8th March, 1907. [297]

THE CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the Offices of the undersigned, King's Buildings, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 27th day of March, 1907, at 11.45 o'clock in the forenoon, when the subjoined resolutions will be proposed:—

1. That the following alterations be made in the Articles of Association, viz:—
- a. That the words "Company or Corporation" be inserted between the word "person" and the word "for" in the second line of the definition of "The General Managers" in Article No. 2.
- b. That the first five lines of Article No. 7 and the word "Company" in the sixth line be eliminated and the words "Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., shall be the General Agents of the Company and so long as they shall continue to be such General Agents the Managing Director in the East of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., or in his absence the person for the time being in charge of the business of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., in Hongkong shall be the Chairman of the Company" be inserted instead.

- c. That at the end of Article No. 13 the following words be added:—"All signatures of the General Agents may be subscribed by such person or persons as may from time to time be thereto authorized by the General Agents."
- d. That the word "their" be eliminated in the first line of Article No. 21 and the words "and the" inserted instead and that the words "of any General Agents" be inserted after the word "administrators" in the second line of Article No. 21.

- e. That the words "each of them, his" be eliminated in the first line of Article No. 22 and the word "he" inserted instead, and that the words "of any General Agents" be inserted between the word "administrators" and the word "shall" in the second line of Article No. 22.
- f. That the words "or the Corporation he represents" be inserted between the word "he" and the word "shall" in s. 1 of Article No. 31.

- g. That the words "or the Corporation he represents" be inserted between the word "Committee" and the word "or" in line 1 of Article No. 39.
- h. That at the end of Article No. 102 the following words be added:—"And where any share or shares is or are held by a Public Company or Corporation the Secretary, Manager, person for the time being in charge of the business of the Agent of such Public Company or Corporation shall be entitled to vote for such Company or Corporation."

2. That the above resolution making the above changes in the Company's Articles shall come into force and take effect from and including the 1st day of May, 1907.

Should the above resolutions be passed by the required majority, they will be submitted for confirmation as special resolutions to a second extraordinary meeting which will be subsequently convened.

Dated the 8th March, 1907.

By Order,

JARDINE, MATHESON &amp; Co., General Agents.

## Public Companies.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the Company's Registered Office, St. George's Buildings, Victoria, Hongkong, on the 16th day of March, 1907, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, when the subjoined resolutions will be proposed:—

## RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Capital of the Company be increased to \$1,000,000 by the creation of 200,000 new shares of \$5 each.
2. That the Articles of Association be altered by striking out the figures "\$4,500" in clause 5 of Article XII and by substituting therefor the figures "\$4,000" and by striking out the word "lunds" in the second line of clause 1 of Article XVI and by inserting after the said Clause 1 new Clauses as follows:—

- 1a. The Articles in general meeting may in the year 1907 pass a Resolution to the effect that it is desirable to capitalise the sum of \$900,000 being part of the undivided profits of the Company standing to the credit of the Company's reserve fund and accordingly that that sum be distributed as a bonus amongst the shareholders in proportion to the shares held by them respectively and that the General Managers be authorised to distribute among the shareholders the 200,000 unissued shares in like proportions.

- 1b. When such Resolution has been passed the General Managers may allot and issue the 200,000 unissued shares credited as \$4.50 paid up to the shareholders in satisfaction of the said bonus in proportion to the shares held by them respectively and prior to such allotment the General Managers may authorise any person on behalf of the shareholders to enter into any agreement with the Company providing for the allotment to them of such shares credited as \$4.50 paid up and in satisfaction as aforesaid, and any agreement made under such authority shall be effective.

Should the resolutions be passed by the required majority they will be submitted for confirmation as special resolutions to a Second Extraordinary Meeting which will be subsequently convened.

Dated 6th day of March, 1907.

SHEWAN, TOMES &amp; Co., General Managers.

286] LUZON SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

## NOTICE.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents, on WEDNESDAY, the 27th March, at 12.15 P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to 27th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON &amp; Co., General Agents.

Hong Kong, 8th March, 1907. [298]

THE LUZON SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the LUZON SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the Offices of the undersigned, King's Buildings, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 27th day of March, 1907, at 12.30 o'clock in the afternoon, when the subjoined resolutions will be proposed:—

1. That the following alterations be made in the Articles of Association, viz:—
- a. That the definition of "Jardine Matheson & Co." be eliminated in Article No. 2.
- b. That Article No. 7 be eliminated.
- c. That Article No. 8 be eliminated and the following Article be inserted instead:—"Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., shall be and they are hereby appointed the General Agents of the Company and the Managing Director in the East of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., or in his absence the person for the time being in charge of the business of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., in Hongkong shall be the Chairman of the Company."

- d. That at the end of Article No. 14 the following words be added:—"And all signatures of the General Agents may be subscribed by such person or persons as may from time to time be thereto authorized by the General Agents."
- e. That the word "their" in the first line of Article No. 22 be eliminated and the words "and the" inserted instead and that the words "of any General Agent" be inserted between the word "administrators" and the word "shall" in the second line of Article No. 22.

- f. That the words "and each of them, his" in the first line of Article No. 23 be eliminated and the words "and the" inserted instead and that the words "of any General Agent" be inserted between the word "administrators" and the word "shall" in the second line of Article No. 23.

- g. That the word "Ld" be inserted between the word "Co." and the word "at" in the 15th line of Article No. 25.
- h. That the words "or the Corporation he represents" be inserted between the word "he" and the word "shall" in s. 1 of Article No. 31.
- i. That the words "or the Corporation he represents" be inserted between the word "Committee" and the word "or" in line 1 of Article No. 39.

- j. That at the end of Article No. 98 the following words be added:—"And when any share or shares is or are held by a Public Company or Corporation the Secretary, Manager, person for the time being in charge of the business of the agent of such Public Company or Corporation shall be entitled to vote for such Company or Corporation."

2. That the above resolution making the above changes in the Company's Articles shall come into force and take effect from and including the 1st day of May, 1907.

Should the above resolutions be passed by the required majority, they will be submitted for confirmation as special resolutions to a second extraordinary meeting which will be subsequently convened.

Dated the 8th March, 1907.

By Order,

JARDINE, MATHESON &amp; Co., General Agents.

## Public Companies.

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Buildings, No. 6, Connaught Road, Victoria, on WEDNESDAY, the 13th March, 1907, at 11 A.M., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1906, declaring a Dividend and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED on SATURDAY, the 9th March, to WEDNESDAY, the 13th March, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN, TOMES &amp; Co., General Managers.

Hong Kong, 1st March, 1907. [267]

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the Offices of the undersigned, King's Buildings, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on TUESDAY, the 2nd day of April, 1907, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, when the subjoined resolutions will be proposed:—

1. That the following alterations be made in the Articles of Association, viz:—

- a. That the words "Company or Corporation" inserted between the word "person" and the word "for" in the second line of the definition of "The General Managers" in Article No. 2.
- b. That Article No. 9 be eliminated and the following Article substituted therefor:—"Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., shall be the General Managers of the Company and so long as they shall continue to be such General Managers the Managing Director in the East of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., or in his absence the person for the time being in charge of the business of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., in Hongkong shall be the Chairman of the Company."

- c. That at the end of Article No. 94 the following words be added:—"All signatures of the General Managers may be subscribed by such person or persons as may from time to time be thereto authorized by the General Managers."
- d. That from the beginning of s. 5 down to and including the words "Head Office" in the 6th line of s. 5 of Article No. 95 be eliminated and the following words be inserted instead:—"So long as Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., shall be the General Managers of the Company the signature of the said Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., shall be necessary to all cheques drawn for any purpose on the funds of the Company at its Head Office."

- e. That the words "and their assigns or (as the case may be)" be inserted between the word "Managers" and the word "their" in the first line of Article No. 99.

- f. That the word "their" in the first line of Article No. 100 be eliminated and the words "and the" be inserted instead and that the words "of any General Managers" be inserted between the word "administrators" and the word "shall" in the second line of Article No. 100.
- g. That the words "and to the Common Law Procedure Act 1854" in lines 5 and 6 of Article No. 129 be eliminated.

- h. That the words "to the payment of bonus and Dividend and" be eliminated from line one of Article No. 6.

- i. That at the end of Article No. 20 the following words be added:—"Every such statement of account shall be accompanied by a report of the General Managers and of the Consulting Committee as to the state and condition of the Company and as to the amount (if any) which they propose should be carried to the Reserve Fund and as to the amount which they recommend to be paid out of the profits by way of dividend."

- j. That Article No. 110 be expunged.
- k. That the words "if practicable" be inserted between the words "Reserve Fund" and the words "shall consist" in Article No. 111 as constituted by the special resolution of the 16th day of March, 1887.

- l. That Article No. 112, as constituted by the special resolution of the 16th day of March, 1887, be expunged and the following Article be substituted therefor, namely:—

- "112. Subject to Article No. 111 the profits of the Company shall be appropriated in each year in such manner as shall be determined by the yearly meeting of shareholders held in pursuance of Article No. 64."

- m. That Articles Nos. 113, 114, 115, and 116 be expunged.

2. That the above resolution making the above changes in the Company's Articles shall come into force and take effect from and including the 1st day of May, 1907.

Should the above resolutions be passed by the required majority, they will be submitted for confirmation as special resolutions to a second extraordinary meeting which will be subsequently convened.

Dated the 7th day of March, 1907.

By Order,

JARDINE, MATHESON &amp; Co., General Managers.

391] HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

## NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND of \$40 per Share for the year ending 31st December, 1906, declared at the Ordinary Meeting, is payable at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and Hongkong Shareholders are requested to apply for Dividend Warrants at the Company's Office, King's Buildings, Connaught Road, after 10 A.M. TO-MORROW.

JARDINE, MATHESON &amp; Co., General Managers.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited.

Hong Kong, 7th March, 1907. [290]

## Public Companies.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the Office of the undersigned at King's Buildings, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on THURSDAY, the 21st day of March, 1907, at 12.30 o'clock in the afternoon, when the subjoined resolutions will be proposed:—

1. That the following alterations be made in the Articles of Association, viz:—

- a. That the words "Company or Corporation" be inserted between the word "person" and the word "for" in the second line of the definition of "The General Managers" in Article No. 2.

- b. That the first six lines of Article No. 7 be eliminated and also the words "the Company" in the 7th line, and that the words "Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., shall be the General Managers of the Company and so long as they shall continue to be such General Managers the Managing Director in the East of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., or in his absence the person for the time being in charge of the business of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., in Hongkong shall be the Chairman of the Company" be inserted instead.

- c. That at the end of Article No. 13 the following words be added:—"All signatures of the General Managers may be subscribed by such person or persons as may from time to time be thereto authorized by the General Managers."
- d. That the first five lines of s. 6 of Article No. 14 and also the word "Office" in the 6th line be eliminated and that the words "so long as Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., shall be the General Managers of the Company the signature of the said Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., shall be necessary to all cheques drawn for any purpose on the funds of the Company at its Head Office" be inserted instead.

- e. That the word "their" be eliminated from the first line of Article No. 17 and the words "and the" inserted instead and that the words "of any General Manager" be inserted between the word "administrators" and the word "shall" in the second line of Article No. 17.

- f. That the word "their" be eliminated from the first line of Article No. 18 and the words "and the" inserted instead and that the words "of any General Manager" be inserted between the word "administrators" and the word "shall" in the second line of Article No. 18.

- g. That the above resolution making the above changes in the Company's Articles shall come into force and take effect from and including the 1st day of May, 1907.

Should the above resolutions be passed by the required majority, they will be submitted for confirmation as special resolutions to a second extraordinary meeting which will be subsequently convened.

Dated the 7th day of March, 1907.

By Order,

JARDINE, MATHESON &amp; Co., General Managers.

289] THE CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED, will be held at the Office of the undersigned, King's Buildings, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on TUESDAY, the 2nd day of April, 1907, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, when the subjoined resolutions will be proposed:—

1. That the following alterations be made in the Articles of Association, viz:—

- a. That the definition "Jardine, Matheson & Co." be eliminated from Article No. 2.
- b. That Article No. 10 be eliminated.
- c. That Article No. 11 be eliminated and the following Article substituted therefor:—"Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., shall be and they are hereby appointed the General Agents of the Company so long as they shall hold two or more shares in the Company and the Managing Director in the East of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., or in his absence the person for the time being in charge of the business of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., in Hongkong shall be the Chairman of the Company."

- d. That the words "or the Corporation he represents" be inserted between the word "he" and the word "hold" in s. 1 of Article No. 18.

- e. That at the end of Article No. 95 the following words be added:—"And when any share or shares is or are held by a Public Company or Corporation the Secretary, Manager, person for the time being in charge of the business of the Agent of such Public Company or Corporation shall be entitled to vote for such Public Company or Corporation."

- f. That at the end of Article No. 103 the following words be added:—"All signatures of the General Agents may be subscribed by such person or persons as may from time to time be thereto authorized by the General Agents."

- g. That the words "or the" be inserted at the end of line 2 of Article No. 109 and the words "members of the firm of" be eliminated from the third line of Article No. 109 and the words "a shareholder of Messrs" be inserted instead and that the word "Ld" be inserted between the word "Co." and the word "



Intimation.



A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

The following PORTS and  
SHERRIES bottled in Europe have  
been especially selected and pro-  
cured from the celebrated Firm of

C. G. SANDEMAN  
SONS & CO.  
London, Oporto and Xeres.

PORTS.

DOURO .....	Per Case, \$15.00
OLD TAWNY .....	18.00
INVALID .....	18.00
ESTRELLA .....	24.00
FIVE DIAMOND .....	27.00
VERY OLD TAWNY .....	42.00
OLDEST & FINEST .....	50.00

SHERRIES.

LIGHT DRY .....	Per Case, \$13.00
SOLERA .....	18.00
VERY PALE DRY .....	18.00
FULL GOLDEN .....	21.00
PALE DRY NUTTY .....	24.00
FINE OLD BROWN .....	36.00

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,  
AGENTS.

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 22nd January, 1907.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1907.

AMERICA'S NAVY IN THE  
FAR EAST.

The fact that the naval authorities of the United States have decided to augment the American fleet in Far Eastern waters will be of interest not merely to those who attempt to gauge the designs of the New World Power, but also by that large section of the community whose commercial prosperity is likely to be increased by the presence of a large fleet which has its base at Manila. No details are yet to hand, and it is probable that no definite arrangements have yet been made as to the number and character of the vessels which are to be placed under Admiral Brownson's command, but it is believed in San Francisco that at least one additional battleship and two cruisers, besides several craft of smaller size, will be commissioned to cruise in the Far East, so that the American fleet will be a very substantial factor in maintaining peace in this part of the world. For some time past, the Government of the United States have been building warships at a rate which, if continued, must eventually bring the Republic into line with the other maritime nations of Europe. It is no secret that America intends to outstrip her rivals as a Naval Power in so far as ships, men and material are concerned, and with that object in view, Britain can find the slightest fault. The stronger America becomes, the greater the likelihood that peace will be maintained, and security of life and property assured, not only for her own nationals but for all who belong to the great Anglo-Saxon speaking race. It is not suggested that the United States Government hope to build men-of-war which, as regards numbers, will exceed the aggregate of the floating war engines flying the St. George's Cross, but she is undoubtedly bent on securing second place amongst the Naval Powers, an ambition with which there is no reason for us to quarrel. Now that she has adopted a policy of Imperialism, fortuitously brought about by the acquisition of the Philippine Islands, the United States cannot afford to neglect her new subjects or fail to afford them that tangible evidence of protection which is made man-

ifest by the presence of flying squadrons which can sweep the seas from Singapore to Sasebo. Fortunately, Great Britain and the United States are on the best of terms, and he would be rash who would dare to prophesy that any rupture in the diplomatic relations of the two countries could conceivably occur now or henceforth. There may be some who will see in the strengthening of the American fleet in the Pacific a warning to Japan, but that idea may be dismissed as chimerical. The alliance subsisting between the United Kingdom and Japan is quite sufficient to guarantee that and questions arising between Japan and America, in which the *amur propre* of either country may be concerned, will be settled amicably. No one would dream for a moment that Great Britain or the United States would allow their commercial interests to be jeopardised by the intrusion of comparatively minor affairs affecting the internal economy of another Power. As a matter of fact, a writer in a recent number of the *San Francisco Chronicle* declares that within a very few years the navies of Great Britain and America will be sufficiently powerful in combination to compel the peace of the world. Here, then, is the aim of the Hague Peace Conference settled almost before the representatives of the nations have begun to discuss the terms of the peace convention. For, as the augmentation of the United States Pacific fleet will unquestionably lead to more frequent visits by the Philippine squadron, our relations are certain to become closer. It is possible that with American co-operation the emutes and disturbances which frequently occur in South China will be suppressed once and for all, without reference to the authorities who are either so weak and impotent or so supremely callous to the functions of their office that they have so far failed to stamp out disorder. Another reason for the proposed increase in the naval strength of America in the Far East is, doubtless, due to the fact that when the Panama Canal is completed there will be ample scope for the Navy of our kith and kin to establish a judicious system of naval patrols in the Pacific, but it is rather early in the day to give consideration to that point. The great matter for congratulation is that despite the withdrawal of the British squadron of battleships from the China Station we can rest in the knowledge that with a powerful and friendly Navy at hand we need have no fear regarding the outcome of any possible concatenation of circumstances that may arise in the future.

BANGKOK FIRES.

Within the past lustrum, there have been innumerable fires in Bangkok, the damage in several cases amounting to millions of ticals. Entire districts have been gutted, and the face of the city altered, yet no lesson seems to have been learned by the authorities from these repeated outbreaks. They appear to accept these visitations as acts of fate, and proceed on the even tenour of their way without giving a thought to the probable cause of the fires. Buildings of attap and wooden shanties are erected on the ruins of the former structures, passages-ways of little or no breadth are constructed and the old condition of things is allowed to prevail. No attempt is made to guard against another conflagration, nothing is done to permit of the restriction of an outbreak within a narrow area, and the result is that when a careless householder overturns the inevitable cheap lamp the entire district is consumed in smoke. It is little wonder then that fire insurance companies fight shy of a city where the most ordinary precautions against fire are ignored, where the fire brigade appliances are antiquated and inadequate, where the water supply is utterly neglected, and where the authorities make no effort to better matters. Even the Palace itself is not exempt from these periodical occurrences, and only the fact that hundreds of soldiers and sailors are pressed into service as firemen on such occasions explains the existence of the various temples and pagodas within the royal bounds at the present day. Bangkok is hopelessly behind the times so far as the observance of sanitary and hygienic principles are concerned, but there is the possibility that, in consequence of the vigorous articles which have appeared in the Press of that city lately, there may be an improvement in the near future. There is ample room for improvement, as every resident admits, but the sole question is whether the authorities will awaken to a sense of their responsibilities. The newspaper exchanges from Bangkok show that at least the foreign element in the community is alive to the necessity of measures being taken to prevent so far as possible the destruction of valuable property by fire. In this connection, it must be remembered that Hongkong is not altogether a disinterested onlooker at the course of events. The fire insurance companies whose headquarters are in this Colony are intimately concerned, for their business extends to the realms of King Chulalongkorn. Only the other day, the chairman of the China Fire Insurance Company, Ltd., when announcing that the operations of the company during the past

year had proved exceptionally successful, remarked, more in an aside than as part of the report which he had to submit, that "since the New Year has opened we have been involved in a somewhat serious loss by a conflagration at Bangkok." In other words, the shareholders need not hold too buoyant a view of the results which will have to be reported at the next meeting. And all this is due to the apathy, the criminal carelessness of those who are appointed to preserve the amenities of Bangkok. If the China Fire Insurance Company is involved we may be absolutely certain that other companies have not escaped. The insurance agents in Bangkok may be clever men, well able to judge whether it is advisable to underwrite fire risks, but while the buildings which they insure may be acceptable as insurable properties in every respect, the surrounding dwellings may possibly invite wide-spread destruction in the event of fire. A writer in the Press of Bangkok speaks out clearly on this point. He remarks: "Bangkok through its fires has such a bad reputation in insurance circles that many of the companies are considering the advisability to retire from underwriting in Siam; others have already given instructions to confine risks to certain people and places. It is appalling to consider what the consequences to trade will be if the dealer be unable to cover the risk of fire. One has to know that practically the entire trade is carried on credit. Hardly any cash transactions will take place, unless the Government quickly, forcefully and methodically steps in to remove the risks." It should be stated that there are no rules and regulations in Bangkok as to the storage of kerosine and inflammable goods generally—or, to be on the safe side, there appears to be none. Any small dealer can stock his attap shed with goods which are liable to bring ruin to the whole neighbourhood. Once a fire starts in the congested areas—and the greater part of Bangkok is one grand congested area—it is practically impossible to check its progress until it has burned itself out, which usually means when it has swept to the water's edge. For a city which pretends to be in the hands of enlightened officials, where motor-cars are all the rage, and modern inventions are looked upon with a certain degree of favour, Bangkok is woefully deficient in this matter, which is apt to bring upon it the scorn and opprobrium of every civilised community. The authorities will certainly get no sympathy from the shareholders of those fire insurance companies which are doing business in that city. Is it not about high time that public opinion in Bangkok should make itself heard, and heard so imperatively that the officials will be compelled to mend their ways so that the city may no longer be subject to the devastating effects of wholesale fires?

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE gun practice scheduled to take place on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th instant has been cancelled.

PRIVILEGE leave of absence on private affairs to the neighbouring countries, has been granted to Lieutenant H. E. Stanger-Leathes, I. M. S. from 2nd April to 30th June, 1907.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. J. F. Boulton, executive engineer, to act as assistant director of public works during the absence on leave of Mr. P. N. H. Jones, assistant director of public works.

THE following extract from the *London Gazette* dated 5th February, 1907, is published for information:—The Duke of Cambridge's own (Middlesex Regiment), Lieutenant Thomas B. H. Thorne is placed on temporary half-pay on account of ill-health.

In order to help the funds of the Football Shield the Hongkong Football Club has decided to put up a large temporary stand capable of seating about 500 spectators. For matches other than the final the charge for admission to this new stand will be twenty cents.

A NUMBER of cargo-boat owners were fined \$2 each, at the Magistracy this morning, for making their boats fast to Observation Place wharf, an unauthorized mooring place. All the men knew that they were transgressing the law, and I was cautioned against a repetition of their offence.

TO-MORROW, Sunday, 10th March, is the 44th anniversary of the marriage of their Majesties, King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, while Wednesday next, the 13th inst., will be the 28th anniversary of the marriage of our late Royal Guests, their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

A WASHINGTON despatch of 2nd ult. says:—The Quartermaster-General is confronted with a situation which probably will compel authority to be given for the transportation of supplies to the Philippines in foreign bottoms. Every effort has been made to induce American owners to submit bids, but the only proposal received was from the steamship *China*, which would not, it is said, make more than a couple of trips a year. If it appears impossible to conform with the rule that requires the shipment of Government supplies in American bottoms, it will be necessary to make arrangements with owners of foreign ships.

CANTON PUBLIC EDIFICES.

NEW CUSTOMS QUARTERS.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STATION.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shameen, 7th March.  
Conspicuous among the edifices in course of erection here are those for the new offices of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., and the quarters for the Customs Indoor Staff. The former is a large three-storied building and presumably will prove to be a very imposing structure, next to the premises of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, whilst the latter occupies a large area on a site in the French Concession. The foundation stone of this building was laid by Mr. Commissioner Mayers to-day at noon in the presence of nearly all the Foreign Consuls and leading residents, and at the conclusion of the ceremony the company proceeded to the Coast Inspector's Office where a customary toast was heartily responded to.

The firm of Messrs. Furnell and Paget are to be congratulated in being the architects of this colossal building which, there is no doubt, will be one of the landmarks of the Concession. I am informed from a reliable source that Secretary Root has applied to Congress for a sum of \$115,000 gold for an American Consulate at Canton. The time is indeed ripe for the Americans to possess a building of their own in this the principal port of southern China. Both the British and the French have their own Consulates in their respective concessions admirably suited for all requirements, and the Germans too, after many years, have now one of the finest buildings in Shameen.

The Portuguese Government also has acquired a plot of ground, about two years ago, and although plans have been prepared and submitted on signs of a commencement to build on it have been forthcoming, and I should not be surprised to see the Japanese Consulate, albeit in its infancy, located in a building of their own ere long.

THE county cruiser *Redford*, Captain E. S. Erskine, has just been completed to her full complement of 700 officers and men at Sheerness, to relieve the cruiser *Diadem*, Captain C. H. Umfréville, of the China Station. The new officers of the *Redford* include Captain Erskine, commanding; Commander A. V. Campbell, Lieutenants H. S. Shipway, G. P. Green, G. F. Cholmeley, Guy Blathwick, L. T. Sackville West, Captain G. R. S. Hickson, Royal Marines; Surgeon R. F. Fasson, Assistant Paymaster L. R. Baker, and Mr. G. C. Barclay. A number of the officers already serving aboard the cruiser will come to the Far East with her.

RETURNS of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 28th February, 1907, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks.

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	\$3,308,624	\$1,300,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	1,570,507	10,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	53,496	65,000
Total	\$9,167,627	22,365,000

THE marriage fixed for February 12, at St. Margaret's Westminster, between the Hon. Eleanor Lucy Hicks Beach, eldest daughter of Viscount St. Aldwyn—still better remembered by his former title of Sir Michael Hicks Beach—and Capt. Sir John Keane, R.A., will have interest for many. Along with General Sir Evelyn Wood, Sir John is one of the small band of soldiers who also enjoy the distinction of having been "called to the Bar," to which profession he was admitted some three years ago. Formerly A.D.C. to Earl Cadogan, Sir John went with distinction through the Boer war, receiving the medal with three clasps, and being mentioned in despatches.—*Westminster Gazette*.

A SOMEWHAT strange announcement comes from Hongkong, remarks the *L. & C. Express*, to the effect that a syndicate of French capitalists have obtained a concession from the Chinese Government for the construction and maintenance of railways in the province of Kwangsi. The local Chinese, it is added, resent the granting of the concession. We may point out that as far back as 1897, France had obtained from the Chinese Government concessions for the prolongation of the Langson-Lungchow line towards Nanning and Pao in Kwangsi. It is, therefore, rather surprising to find it reported to years later that a French syndicate has obtained the concession for railways in Kwangsi. We suppose that what is meant is, that the syndicate is a new body formed to work the old concessions.

THE U.S. battleship *Oregon* is to be modernized, and Secretary Metcalf announced that he had authorized the expenditure of \$1,000,000 (gold) out of the naval repair fund for that purpose. Of the best type of war ship when she was launched, the *Oregon* is already almost obsolete, and to make her equal to modern men-of-war she must be extensively overhauled. (The changes will be similar to those ordered for her sister ship, the *Indiana*; the most important being the substitution of balanced turrets for the present round turrets, which cause the ship to feel when all four twelve-inch guns are pointed at the same quarter. The alterations will be made at the Puget Sound Navy station, where the *Oregon* has been lying since her return from the China station, and will consume one year.

CANTON FOREIGN SECRETARY.

NEW APPOINTMENT.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shameen, 7th March.  
H. E. Viceroy Chow-fu has appointed Mr. Ho-yau to be the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and he will shortly assume the duties of his office. Mr. Ho-yau was formerly the Consul-General for China at San Francisco and being an official who has had considerable experience with Western politics and has been in close touch with Europeans, the appointment is well selected.

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

ALLEGED BOLD BURGLAR.

Of samples of the ways that are done and tricks that are vain to which the coolies are so much addicted, as we are told, by more or less authoritative writers, there is no end. When a Chinaman is charged before the magistrate for some or other of the daily perpetrated offences which keep their Honours busy, marvellous indeed are the excuses with which he is ever ready to prove to his own entire satisfaction on his innocence of any such peccadillo. If caught in a gambling den, with cards and money in his hands, "Oh," he says, "I was not gambling; I had only just looked in to find a friend." If caught entering premises by the window, he "heard a noise and wanted to look-see." When arrested with stolen garments in his possession, he was "gently walking down the street when the garments fell from the clouds right on to his shoulders," and so on *ad infinitum*. But it remained for Chan Kam, a coolie, living at No. 16, Ui Hing Lane, to give the Court a starter, when he was ordered to free a charge of attempting to commit burglary at No. 23, Sau Wa Fong, last night. The stereotyped question being put to him, "Do you admit the charge?" the accused blandly replied that he did—he heard "a woman's voice" in the house and wanted to look-see. Evidence showed that accused was seen by a next door neighbour removing the bar from the door of the house, and giving the alarm, started to chase the accused, who dashed down the road yelling and shouting as if all the devils were after him. He was secured at last and Inspector Goulay took charge of him until this morning, when it was time to place him before the magistrate. There was some doubt as to the man's intentions, and he was given the benefit of it. Four weeks ago a similar occurrence happened at the same house, and only one week ago the place was entered and property removed, the thieves leaving no trace.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the King has been pleased to approve of Mr. J. Briberia a Consul of Belgium at Hongkong.

THE Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—J. Walker \$10.

"LIGHTEN our darkness" will no doubt be most feelingly echoed by Leung Yau, master of junk No. 8773, and some of his confrères, who were to-day ordered by their Worship at the Magistracy, to pay fines of \$5 each for endeavouring to "pry" illegal economy, and be about the harbour between sunset and sunrise without any lights on their floating habitations, which is not only a breach of the harbour regulations, but a danger to navigation.

THE United States Government has its hands pretty full at the moment. Apart from the difficulty with Japan the State Department is said to be troubled about its relations with China. It is stated that the American boycott has been renewed, and according to a New York correspondent, the Secretary of State has evidence that the Chinese Government is encouraging it. It is understood that pointed representations on the subject have been sent to Peking.—*L. & C. Express*.

AT the Magistracy, this morning, before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Mr. J. Gray Scott, manager of the Tramway Co., prosecuted a coolie, named Che Sze, in the employ of the Company, for the theft of two brass bushes, valued at \$5, the property of the company. The accused, who had no business there, went into a shed and was removing the property when he was caught. He had to plead guilty—he was too tired to argue, and his Worship murmured "three weeks' hard labour and four hours' stocks."

MR. H. D. C. Jones, who has acted for a long time as manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Manila, has recently been appointed manager of the Yokohama branch of the same bank, and will be sailing for that port early in March. His wife will remain in this country till May, says the *L. & C. Express*, when she will sail to join her husband at Yokohama. The Manila Colony deeply lament the departure of Mr. Jones and family, who have been held with the greatest esteem during their sojourn in the Philippines.

UN Hip Wan, a clerk, made things interesting last night in Third Street, for which no doubt he is sorry to-day. He started out to enjoy himself and fancying he was Sims Reeves—or any other vocalist he had read of—he commenced to "sing." The residents, the visitors, the passers-by objected to his most unmusical music, but nothing could stop him until the arrival of the police, when he changed his tune to a major key, and his language, it was said, was "terrible to listen to." This, of course, could not be allowed to continue, and so he was accompanied with a cell for the night, and this morning, by order of the Magistrate, he had to dig up \$10 to ensure a "liberty" and as a warning not to indulge in disorderly conduct in the public streets.

Telegram.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

THE "SAINAM" PIRACY.

BRITISH REPRESENTATIONS TO THE VICEROY.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 8th March.

Yesterday, the British Consul-General at Canton wrote to the Viceroy asking him about the settlement of claims in connection with the piracy of the s.s. *Sainam* last year, and has now received in reply from the Viceroy stating that he is not aware of any provisions in the existing Treaties of the two countries concerning the payment of indemnity in cases of piracy.

THE CHINESE BOYCOTT

AND AMERICAN TRADE.

In a special report to the State Department on the subject of trade relations between the United States and China, Consul-General Rodgers at Shanghai states, that the boycott has had nothing to do with the falling off of trade.

The State Department gave out the following statement regarding the subject:—"Mr. James L. Rodgers, American Consul-General at Shanghai, China, in a dispatch, says his attention has lately been called to articles in American newspapers stating that the great falling off in American imports in China during the current year does not verify his conclusions expressed in a report on the trade in China in 1905, that the boycott on American goods had had little or no effect."

"Mr. Rodgers states that the boycott had nothing whatever to do with the present trade conditions as between China and America, with the single reservation that there may be some small and trivial boycott effect as to American flour entering China through Hongkong."

"Inquiry made by the Consul-General has developed these facts: The surplus of cotton piece goods which remained after the close of the year 1905 and which was still further increased by the deliveries under contract made in December, 1905, and January, 1906, has furnished the supply with which Shanghai and other China merchants have met the small and diminished demand from Manchuria."

"When the impediments to foreign trade in Manchuria, owing to the Japanese war, occupation and other causes connected therewith, were fully understood and appreciated in Shanghai in the early spring of 1906, it became certain that there would be a great shrinkage in imports, not only from America, but from other nations. To the commercial situation in Manchuria was added that of all of Northern China, especially the Yangtze valley, where the surplus goods of all kinds, imported principally by speculators who hoped to run the blockade in the north, were worked off at prices favourable to the Chinese."

"Present-day investigation," says the Consul-General, discloses that the trade of England with China through Shanghai is in the same proportion as the American, and such is understood to be the rule with the other commercial nations."

"As a further instance to show the absurdity of the statement as to the boycott effect on trade, Mr. Rodgers recites the report that the Standard Oil Company in China will have the largest year's business in its history, yet American kerosene was the chief object of attack during the boycott period."

RUSSO-CHINESE BANK.

The Russo-Chinese Bank gave notice of an issue of 16,000 new shares of 125 Shanghai taels face value each. Every holder of 20 old shares will be entitled to a minimum allotment of three new shares, and six founders' shares will entitle the holder to a minimum allotment of five new shares. The issue price is 140 per cent. of their face value, or 175 Shanghai taels. The following method will be adopted for the participation of the new shares in the profits. On January 13, 1907, if each year their face amount will be converted into rubles at the price of silver on that date, and the ruble amount thus obtained will serve as a basis for the participation in the profits of the following financial year, in the same proportion as the shares of the former issues. For the first financial year, viz., for 1907, the new shares will receive a share of the dividend in proportion to the time during which the amounts paid will have formed a part of the bank's capital.

SHIPPING AND MAELS.

MAELS DUE.

Canadian (*Empress of China*) 11th inst.  
Australian (*Chungking*) 12th inst.  
German (*Zieten*) 13th inst.  
American (*América Maru*) 15th inst.  
Indian (*Namang*) 20th inst.  
The C. P. R. Co.'s s.s. *Tartar* arrived at Nagasaki at 8 a.m. on 6th inst., and left again at 3 p.m., same day, for Shanghai, where she is due to arrive at 8 a.m. on 11th inst.  
The C. P. R. Co.'s s.s. *Empress of China* arrived at Shanghai at 6 a.m. on 6th inst., and left again at 3 p.m., same day, for Hongkong, where she is due to arrive at 8 a.m. on 11th inst.



## Telegrams.

[Ruter's.]

## The British Empire.

LONDON, 7th March.

Mr. Churchill, speaking at a dinner of the African Society, said the development of Protectorates and Crown Colonies in Africa must figure prominently as a work of the Empire, until they have reached a self-governing status, and Colonial Administrators must feel that there is only one England, whatever government may be in power.

Later.

## The Opium Question.

Mr. Morley, replying to Mr. Sloan, in the House of Commons, said the proposals from China regarding the importation and taxation of Indian opium had been received, but that it was not to the public interest to lay the papers on the table of the House at present.

## Russia.

Yesterday a bomb was thrown in the carriage of General Neplinski, the commandant of the fortress in Sevastopol; the General and the coachman were injured.

## GERMAN COMPETITION IN THE FAR EAST.

A propos of the recent articles in these columns on the subject of German competition in the Far East, the Berlin correspondent of one of our London contemporaries, says, the *Z. & C. Express* gives a number of indications showing the rift of German ambitions not only in this direction, but in others nearer home. He asserts that it is the intention of the German Government to make Kustendji a serious rival to Brindisi, the well-known port of call of numerous British liners, including, of course, the P. and O. boats. At the present time travellers to Egypt from Germany can reach Alexandria via Kustendji, in twenty-four hours less time than via Brindisi. Constantinople and Alexandria are not, however, the final objects of German ambition. From the Bosphorus it seems a telegraph line is planned, which will follow the course of the Bagdad Railway to Fao and there join with the Indian systems touching the Persian Gulf. This line it is expected will be a most important factor in the development of German relations with India and the Far East, and will be a dangerous rival to the Eastern and Indo-European telegraph lines. Germany's policy in a word (says this correspondent), is directed towards the control of the passenger and the telegraph business between Europe and the East, not with India alone, but with the Sunda Archipelago, China and Japan.

## THE U. S. SHIPPING SUBSIDY BILL.

## DECLINE IN AMERICAN TRADE IN THE ORIENT PREDICTED.

The latest news about the ship subsidy bill, that the House has not only cut out the Hawaiian Pacific lines but all trans-Pacific lines from any share in the bonus appropriation, is even more discouraging than that received first, observes the Manila Times.

Just what motive prompted the House to such an amendment will not be known until fuller word comes by mail, and for the present speculation, while interesting, cannot prove final or satisfying.

Some of the results, however, seem fairly plain.

In the first place, we, the people of the Philippines, will be denied early realization of one of the things we have most firmly set our hearts upon, better freight, mail, and passenger service between here and the United States. If anything, the trend of the subsidy is apt to make our plight still worse than now in those respects, as some of the Pacific vessels may be diverted into those waters where they will receive the benefit of the subsidy.

Another effect the elimination of the Pacific is likely to have is the decline of American interest if not of trade in the Orient, other trade fields being apparently enhanced at the expense of the Eastern field.

An indirect result of this is likely to be a decline in the importance of Manila or the Philippines both as a traffic and a strategic centre. As an entrepot of American trade in the Far East or as a military base we could command not a little respect, but with the Pacific ignored in such manner by the House our importance is appreciably decreased. We rise and fall with our activities and fortunes on that broad expanse of water and in the East in general.

And, of course, we cannot forget the consequent aggrandisement of Japan. In fact if the action of the House spells one thing above another it seems to be tame acquiescence in the programme of Pacific paramountcy which Japan has outlined. If this is to be our policy it is hard to reconcile with our building of the Panama canal.

Possibly there is some hidden reason for the amendment found in the law applying the U. S. coastwise shipping laws to the Philippines in 1900, which in a manner will be a subsidy to American bottoms plying in the Pacific trade. If this be the case a somewhat different aspect may be thrown on the action of the House.

AN Ashio dispatch states that the proprietor of the Ashio Copper Mine has granted a sum of ¥9,105 to the workers in the Otaki pit and others who did not join the recent riot, numbering in all 2,774 persons. The proprietor has also decided to increase the wages of those workers by 20 per cent.

## H.B. WU TING FANG.

A MAN OF MODERN IDEAS.

TOO MODERN FOR HIS OWN PEOPLE.

It has no doubt seemed strange to the many friends of Wu Ting Fang in the United States that in all of the newspaper correspondence that has gone out of China during the last year regarding the proposed constitutional reform of government and other reforms, that his name has not been mentioned as one of the leaders in the reform movement. When he was Minister at Washington he was considered a man of modern ideas, and those who knew him then would naturally suppose that in such a movement as the reformation of his own Government, Wu would be taking an active part in the work.

The truth is, Wu Ting Fang is down and out, so far as the Government of China is concerned. Two things have aided his political downfall. He was too modern for his own people, and he is gifted with the most cynical tongue that was ever placed in the mouth of a Chinese.

## DISGUSTED AT CLIQUES.

When he returned to China from Washington a little over four years ago Wu was made a member of the Wai-Wu-Pu, which, translated, means Board of Foreign Affairs. And he continued to be a member of that body until last summer, when his resignation was accepted and he was given a minor appointment and allowed to depart from Peking. A few weeks ago he petitioned to be allowed to resign his new post and retire into private life. He gave as his reason ill health, but those who know the cynical Wu best say that his desire to get out of official life is prompted by disgust over the manner in which the clique that is now in control of the reform movement are handling it.

Before he went to Washington Wu was like thousands of other educated Chinese who know that their Government is far behind the times, but who are willing to sit idle and let their drift along. But his stay in the United States taught him that this would not do and when he returned to his native soil he got busy. He talked right out in meeting and lectured his confidants in the Wai-Wu-Pu in the most amazing manner over the way they were handling China's relations with the outside world. They smiled and continued to pursue the even tenor of their way.

## WU DISLIKES JAPAN.

Now Wu has no use for Japan. He is fully alive to the fact that Japan's aggressiveness spells trouble in the near future for China. When Japan was sharpening her sword for Russia "in China's interests," it was Wu Ting Fang who wanted the Peking Government to tell the powers that China had not asked Japan to go to war with anyone in her behalf. He said that it was all well enough for Japan to use China's interests as a casus belli, but those interests would be forgotten when the guns began to boom. Not that he was particularly friendly toward Russia did Wu take this stand, but he pointed out that so long as Manchuria was already lost to China, she was just as well off with the Bear controlling the destinies of that province as with Japan in charge. The result has proved that the old man was right. Russia and Japan are both in Manchuria now, and will remain there. In talking with a newspaper man at the time he was trying to get his Government to take his advice about the situation, Wu said:

## ILLUSTRATED BY COMPARISON.

"You have seen two dogs fighting over a bone, you never saw the bone fight back. Well, in this case, China is the bone of contention, and if I can make my people see it, the bone will fight before the dogs are ready."

When it became evident that the war was bound to come, Wu said that the natives of Manchuria would be the only real sufferers, and again he was right. That rich country is now all but ruined. The people lost all they had, and in northern Manchuria the Japanese are pursuing a policy that will if it is not soon checked, mean their further degradation.

When the treaty of Portsmouth was being negotiated it will be remembered that China asked that a Chinese commissioner be allowed a voice in the hearings. Wu told his people that this was useless; that it was now too late to save Manchuria for the Chinese and when both Russia and Japan told China very plainly to go away back and sit down. Wu again was able to say, "I told you so."

## HIS CYNICISM MAKES TROUBLE.

Wu is a cynic. He knows what his country needs, and he knows equally as well that he, a scalled statesman do not intend to supply those needs unless they benefit financially, and he does not hesitate to tell them so. His biting sarcasm has got him into trouble more than once during the last year.

When the Peking Government proposed to send a commission to America and Europe for the purpose of studying foreign systems of government Wu smiled a smile that meant "There you go again." But he said nothing until he was asked what he thought of the proposition. He replied that he had no doubt the commissioners would absorb a great deal of useful information regarding the western school of cooking, the proper wines to go with each course of a dinner, and acquire a taste for expensive brands of cigars, but he added: "What they will learn about the forms of government in the various countries they visit will not fill as large a book as the volume that will be required to register what they do not learn." And as reports came back telling about the entertaining to which the high commissioners were being treated, Wu was unable to bridle his sarcastic tongue. Especially was he cynical when the commissioners cabled for more expensive money, as they did from almost every city they visited. "Chorus girls and old vintages come high," he remarked, "but they all have their proper place in government."

## RECEIVED BY EMPRESS DOWAGER.

When the commissioners returned the Empress Dowager received them in audience. They submitted their reports, but very little has ever been given out as to the real contents of those reports, though from time to time the newspaper men in Peking have been given to understand that the high commissioners learned all about the management of other governments. They probably did, for, as the cynical Wu pointed out, one of the commissioners informed certain mighty officials in Peking that after an exhaustive study of the British and French forms of government, covering a period of nearly three weeks automobiling in Paris and London, he had learned that there were many things in the British system that could be used in China, and that the French system of government was quite different from that of England.

About this time an edict was issued from the throne informing the Chinese people that they were to have a constitutional form of government when, as Wu put it at the time, they were educated up to a standard that would enable them to understand that a constitution was not something to eat. About this time he left Peking.

## BRAINEST MAN IN CHINA.

In the opinion of Mr. Sam-B. Trissel, who contributes this article from Chefoo to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, it is safe to say that Wu Ting Fang is the brainiest man in China to-day, and if the Empress Dowager really intended to reform China's present system of government, she would listen to him. But her dislike for Wu comes from his fearlessness in telling his sovereign what is necessary in the way of a general house cleaning at Peking before the reforms can be begun.

Wu knows his own people as no other Chinese knows them, and he has their welfare at heart. He has been accused of being anti-foreign in his attitude toward outsiders, and in a measure this is true. He says China is one of the wealthiest nations on earth, and her natural resources should be developed, but preferably by the Chinese themselves. But he always adds that if the Chinese will not build railroads, open the mines and adopt modern methods of agriculture, then the foreigners should be given the opportunity to do so. This sort of talk has not made him popular with the anti-foreign element that would drive every white man out of the country.

Wu takes no stock in the talk of a constitution for China. He full well realizes that not one-tenth of one per cent of China's 400,000,000 of people ever heard of a constitutional form of government, or for that matter any other form of government that goes beyond the village magistrate. He looks upon the plan as chimerical at the present time, and has said so. He has pointed out several ways in which reforms could be instituted, but he is not listened to.

## WU GUEST OF HONOUR.

Last month a dinner was given by the commercial guilds of the city of Canton and Wu was the guest of honour. He made a splendid speech in which he told his audience that the country was poor and weak because the people would not improve their ways and adopt more modern ways, especially in trading. "They do not seem to understand that foreigners are shrewd and careful," he said, "and look far into the future, particularly in matters relating to manufacturing industries. They consider not only the matter of home consumption but also of the demands of the foreign markets. They send their manufactured goods abroad and import raw materials. In general business affairs we should pattern after the Americans. We must be energetic and not idle. Although but few of us can go abroad to be educated, we must endeavour to induce students at home to study more modern books, and also with that end in view, we must establish more modern schools and colleges. As regards education the student in America and Europe is not like the student in China. In those countries they do not hope to become officials, but desire to acquire a good general education to enable them to start out for themselves early in life, so that they may become independent and enjoy liberty. As regards constitutional government for China, there must be a more educated people before it can be successfully established. I wish you would all read more newspapers so that you may learn more about foreigners and their methods, and I also hope that you will send your sons and younger brothers to school at as early an age as possible. Confucian teaching is good, but if any foreign system proves to be better we must adopt it."

## POE OF CERTAIN MISSIONARIES.

Certainly there was not much anti-foreign sentiment in that talk. And so it has been with Wu all the time. He wants to help China and her people, but those in power will not listen to him.

Wu has been a most relentless foe of that class of missionaries who go into business in China and use their religion as a cloak to make dollars. His Philadelphia speech delivered in 1898 lashed this class mercilessly and they have never forgotten it. They have had no small part in the political downfall of Wu.

He is now growing old and is glad that he is no longer in the official class. He frankly admits he is too modern for the China of to-day, but says that the time will come when his people will say that he was right.

## THE WEATHER.

The following report is from Mr. F. G. Figg, First Assistant of the Hongkong Observatory:—(On the 9th at 11.55 a.m.)—The barometer has risen in the E. Japan, and fallen elsewhere, except on the E. coast of China. The depression, lying over N.E. Japan yesterday, has moved into the Pacific. Pressure remains low and considerably below the normal over Central China and W. Japan. Gradients are very slight in all areas, and light variable winds, accompanied by foggy weather, may be expected along the China coast, and light E. and S.E. winds over the N. part of the China Sea.

FORECAST.  
1.—Hongkong and neighbourhood, variable winds; light; cloudy, foggy.  
2.—Formosa Channel, same as No. 1.  
3.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Lamock, same as No. 1.  
4.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan, same as No. 1.

## COMMERCIAL.

FARM MARKET.

In their report dated 8th inst., Messrs. Phirooth & Co. write:—Our last circular was dated the 22nd February.

The China New Year holidays having terminated during the interval, Chinese merchants and dealers have for the most part returned from the country and business has since resumed. It cannot be said, however, that the volume so far transacted bespeaks a general eagerness on the part of purchasers to enter into engagements. The sales that have been effected were few and far between, while prices have receded; in some instances, fifty cents to a dollar per bale on the last published quotations. The slackness of demand at this time of year is due in a great measure to the large influx of subsidiary coins into the Colony. The depreciated currency at one period of the fortnight under review was quoted at a discount of 18½ per \$1,000 closing at 87½ per \$1,000. It is obvious that so long as Chinese subsidiary coins are allowed to pour into the Colony to an extent far in excess of the legitimate demands of trade, so long will they operate as an extraneous factor detrimental to the easy flow of business. It stands to reason that retail traders, with an accumulated stock of the debased currency and no ready outlet therefor, must endeavour to meet their pecuniary obligations with the coins in their possession. Being at so large a discount prices of commodities are relatively influenced, and Cotton Yarn whose ultimate destination is the small dealer is, in consequence, affected. This serious drawback to trade is one of the crying evils of the times, for which no adequate remedy appears to have yet been devised.

Clearances during the fortnight have been far from satisfactory for the main reason explained in the foregoing.

The transactions recorded in this circular have been effected on the old-time basis, viz., clearance in three months. It cannot be stated with certainty if buyers will take delivery within the stipulated period. The transactions were partly induced by a spirit of speculation in the hope of an advance in prices in the near future. Such an appreciation it will not be difficult to establish.

No. 202.—A very meagre business transpired in this count. Business reported in selected threads at \$4 to \$5 lower than last quotation.

No. 165.—Moderate business done for the Northern markets.

No. 175.—Not much in favour. Cheap prices induced some business in selected chops. Prices show a decline of \$½ to \$1 per bale.

No. 107.—Cheap prices induced business, and good lots changed hands at last prices.

Nos. 82, and 67.—Out of favour.

The market closes steady.

Sales:—20 bales of No. 62; 25 bales of No. 82; 270 bales of No. 107; 465 bales of No. 122; 210 bales of No. 165; and 370 bales of No. 202; in all about 3,880 bales.

Arrivals:—Per steamers *Kulsang* and *Lightning* (from Calcutta), and *Bombay Maru*, *Banca* and *Malta* (from Bombay), of about 2,500 bales. Shipment:—About 7,500 bales.

Unsold Stock:—About 108,000 bales.

Exchange:—We quote, to-day, as under:—

India	T. T.	at Rs.	163½ per cent.
	Demand	"	164.
London	T. T.	Sh.	2.2 7/16d. = \$.
	Demand	"	2.2 1/2d. = \$.
Shanghai	"	Tls.	72½ = \$100.
Silver	"	"	31 1/16d. per oz.

Writing under date March 8, Messrs. Casser, Pallanjer and Co. report:—

Our last report was dated the 22nd ultimo per *Despatch*, since when a quiet but steady business was done chiefly during the first half of the interval, and although receipts continue to fall away there was no appreciation in values. Subsequently on the appearance of a large importer anxious to realize even at a concession of 50 cents to a dollar and a half per bale, the buyers entirely retired from the market and ceased buying and are now dealing among themselves. Country buyers have not all returned from the interior and business in consequence has not been large. The market again closes quiet and dull. Nos. 62, and 82.—Trifling sales. No. 107.—A reduction of 50 cents per bale, a fairly large business has been done in this count. No. 122.—Sales have been confined to actual requirements, and approved superior chops at a decline of \$1 to \$1½. No. 165.—Small sales at or about quotations. No. 202 only superior approved spinings have been dealt in sparingly at a reduction of \$1 to \$1½ per bale. Sales during the past fortnight comprised of about 25 bales of No. 62; 25 bales of No. 82; 145 bales of No. 107; 645 bales of No. 122; 375 bales of No. 165; and 775 bales of No. 202; in all about 3,998 bales.

Arrivals per steamers *Bombay Maru*, *Banca*, *Kulsang* and *Lightning* of about 1,968 bales. Shipment to Shanghai and Northern Ports of about 1,000 bales. The unsold stock is estimated at about 89,000 bales.

Local Mill.—Sales of about 470 bales Nos. 107 and 122 at \$83 and \$85 respectively are reported. The Mill is now working full time as usual.

Japanese Yarn.—125 bales No. 165, at \$122 and 450 bales No. 202, at from \$126 to \$130 are reported to have changed hands.

Exchange:—We quote to-day on India at Rs. 16½. London at 2/3 1/16d.

## TO-DAY'S EXCHANGE.

London—Bank T.T.	2/3 1/16d.
Do. demand	2/2 9/16d.
Do. 4 months' sight	2/2 1/2d.
France—Bank T.T.	2/2 7/16d.
America—Bank T.T.	2/2 1/2d.
Germany—Bank T.T.	2/2 1/2d.
India T.T.	163½ per cent.
Do. demand	164.
Shanghai—Bank T.T.	72½ = \$100.
Singapore T.T.	31 1/16d. per oz.
Japan—Bank T.T.	2.2 7/16d. = \$.
Java—Bank T.T.	2.2 1/2d. = \$.
4 months' sight L/C.	2/3 1/16d.
6 months' sight L/C.	2/3 1/16d.
30 days' sight San Francisco & New York.	2/3 1/16d.
4 months' sight	2/2 9/16d.
30 days' sight Sydney and Melbourne	2/3 1/16d.
4 months' sight France	2/2 1/2d.
6 months' sight	2/2 1/2d.
4 months' sight Germany	2/2 1/2d.
Bar Silver	107 1/2 = \$100.
Bank of England rate	2.2 7/16d. = \$.
Spectacles	31 1/16d. per oz.

## To-day's Advertisements.

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

THE TWENTY-THIRD ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the company will be held in the Office of the General Managers, St. George's Building, Victoria, on SATURDAY, 23rd March, 1907, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1906, declaring a Dividend and electing Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from WEDNESDAY, the 20th March, until SATURDAY, the 23rd March, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., General Managers, Hongkong, 9th March, 1907. [35R]

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IT is hereby notified that the following SALE OF CROWN LAND BY PUBLIC AUCTION will be held at the Offices of the Public Works Department at 3 P.M., on MONDAY, the 11th day of March, 1907.

The Lot is sold for the term of 75 years from the 1st day of July, 1898, with the right of renewal for a further term of 24 years, less 3 days, at a reassessed Crown Rent as a Building Lot subject to the General Conditions of Sale published in Government Notification No. 305 of 1906 and to the special conditions hereunder specified.

The amount to be spent in rateable improvements under the General Condition No. 5 is \$2,000.

## PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Sale	Locality	Boundary Measurements				Containing in Square feet	Upset Price	Annual Crown Rent
		N.E.	S.W.	S.E.	N.W.			
Lot 34	Hong Kong	100	100	70	70	49,000	\$80	64
Hongkong, 9th March, 1907. [301]								

## TO LET.

IMMEDIATELY the spacious premises on the Ground Floor of No. 7, PEDDER STREET, at present occupied by Messrs. HARRIS KEENEY Co., Ltd.

Apply to—GILMAN & Co. Hongkong, 9th March, 1907. [150]

## NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer "MALTA," FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godown at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out mark by mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

This vessel brings on Cargo:—From London, &c., ex S.S. *Moldavia*. From Persian Gulf, ex R.I.S.N. and B. & P. S. N. Co.'s Steamers.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless instructions are given to the contrary before 6 hours.

Goods not cleared by the 15th instant, at 4 P.M., will be subject to rent.

No fire insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

Damaged Packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees and the Company's representative at an appointed hour.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognised.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT, Superintendent. Hongkong, 8th March, 1907. [5]

FOR SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE, MOJI, AND NAGASAKI.

THE Steamship "JAPAN,"

Captain J. G. Olifant, will be despatched for the above Ports, on MONDAY, the 18th instant, at 3 P.M.

This Steamer has Superior Accommodation for Passengers, and is installed throughout with Electric Light and carries a duly qualified Doctor.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DAVID SASSOON & Co., LIMITED Agents. Hongkong, 9th March, 1907. [302]

## STEAM TO CANTON.

THE New Twin Screw Steel Steamer "KWONG TUNG" 1,125 B. W. WALKER.

Leaves Hongkong for Canton on each Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, at 9 every evening.

Leaves Canton for Hongkong on each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, about 5.30 o'clock every evening.

This Fine New Steamer has an excellent Accommodation for First Class Passengers and is lit throughout by Electricity. Electric Fans in First Class Cabins.

Passage Fare—Single Journey \$4. Meals \$1 each.

The Company's Wharf is situated in front of the New Western Market, opposite the old Harbour Office.

YUEN ON S. S. CO., LD., No. 8, Queen's Road West. Hongkong, 14th January, 1907. [16]

## Intimations

THE ROBINSON PIANO CO., LD.

TALKING MACHINES AND RECORDS.

New Stock just arrived  
LARGE AND VARIED  
ASSORTMENT

MUSIC.  
Comic Opera Scores  
and Dance Music.

RECEIVED BY EVERY MAIL.

Hongkong, 29th November, 1906. [33]

A GREAT REPUTATION  
IS ONLY WON BY GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS



PERFECTION SCOTCH WHISKY  
HAS A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE OF QUALITY  
FOUNDED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF ITS CONSUMERS  
That is Why  
WHEN ONCE TRIED IT IS ALWAYS  
PREFERRED TO OTHER BRANDS  
SIMPLY A CASE OF QUALITY & FLAVOUR

H. PRICE & Co.,  
SOLE AGENTS.

Per Case 12 Bottles

\$16.00.

10 per cent. Discount  
allowed until further  
notice.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1907. [4]











## MAILS.

## REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE

## TO NEW YORK,

VIA PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL,  
(With Liberty to Call at Malabar Coast).

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG:

## FOR NEW YORK.

S.S. "MUNCASTER CASTLE" 12th March.  
S.S. "LOWTHER CASTLE" 21st March.  
This steamer has excellent Saloon Accommodation for First-class Passengers at moderate rates.  
For Freight and further information, apply to

ODDWELL & CO., LIMITED,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1907. [64]

## TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

## SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE  
BETWEEN HONGKONG, CALLOO  
AND ILOQUE VIA  
JAPAN PORTS.

Will be sent to VALPARAISO if sufficient inducement.

Steamers Tons To sail

"GLENFARG" 4,000, March 26, at Noon.

"KASATO MARU" 6,100, April 2, at Noon.

Taking Freight and Passengers to other Eastern and Western Coast ports of South America in connection with Steamers of the Pacific S. N. Co.

The above Steamers have splendid Accommodation and are fitted throughout with Electric Light. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried on each boat.

K. MATSUDA,  
Manager,

York Building,  
Hongkong, 8th February, 1907. [15]

## EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE,  
(Calling at Timor, Port Darwin, and Queensland Ports and taking through Cargo to Adelaide, New Zealand, Tasmania, &c.)

## THE Steamship

## "EMPIRE."

Captain Helms, will be despatched as above, on SATURDAY, the 27th April, at Noon.

This well-known Steamer is specially fitted for Passengers, and has a Refrigerating Chamber, which ensures the supply of Fresh Provisions, Ice, etc., throughout the voyage.

The Steamer is installed throughout with the Electric Light.

A Stewardess and a duly qualified Surgeon are carried.

M.P.—To assure the additional comfort of passengers the steamers of the Company have electric fans fitted in staterooms.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1907. [287]

## Intimations.

CUTLER, PALMER & CO.  
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

LONDON, INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.  
ESTABLISHED 1815.

	One Case.	One Case.
	Qts.	Pts.
COGNAC	\$21.50	—
"	19.00	—
"	16.00	—
WHISKY, PALE MALT	19.00	—
" JOHN WALKER	12.00	—
" C. P. & CO'S SPECIAL BLEND	10.00	—
PORT WINE, INVALIDS	19.00	—
" DOURO	13.00	—
SHERRY, AMOROSO	19.00	—
" LA TORRE	15.25	—
BENEDICTINE, D.O.M.	38.50	40.50

THE ABOVE EXCLUSIVELY SHIPPED TO

SIEMSEN & CO.,  
HONGKONG AGENTS.

Hongkong, 16th November, 1906. [136]

## ACHEE &amp; CO.

ESTABLISHED 1860.

## FURNITURE,

## DEPOT

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD

REQUISITES

&c., &c., &c.

EASTMAN'S

KODAKS, FILMS,

AND

ACCESSORIES.

Telephone 256.

AMATEUR WORK RECEIVES PROMPT and CAREFUL ATTENTION.  
Hongkong, 16th May, 1907.

## SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. KADOORIE & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES.	PAID UP.	RESERVE.	AT WORKING ACCOUNT.	LAST DIVIDEND.	APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE QUOTATION.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
<b>BANKS.</b>							
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	80,000	£125	£125	£1,000,000	£1,721,558	£1.15/- and bonus of £1.00 Ex. 2/3 = £2.43 making £4.80 for 1906	£805 sellers London 1/4.
National Bank of China, Limited	50,000	£7	£6	£1,000,000	£74,099	£2 (London 3/6) for 1905	£51
<b>MARINE INSURANCES.</b>							
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	10,000	£750	£50	£1,000,000	£233,638	£20 for 1905	£295 ex. and 2.
North China Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	£15	£5	£1,000,000	£185,529	Final of 7/6 making 15/- for year ended 30.6.1906	£18.80 sellers
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	10,000	£250	£100	£1,000,000	£2,792,271	Interim div. of 3/- for 1905	£830 buyers
Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited	10,000	£100	£60	£1,000,000	£508,334	£12 and 13 special dividend for 1905	£116 buyers
<b>FIRE INSURANCES.</b>							
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	70,000	£100	£20	£1,000,000	£1,62,980	£7 and bonus \$1 for 1905	90 ex div.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	£250	£50	£1,000,000	£235,236	£20 for 1905	£342 ex div.
<b>SHIPPING.</b>							
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	£25	£25	£6,000	£6,563	£11 for 1905	£20
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	20,000	£50	£50	£3,562	Nil	£24 for year ended 30.6.1906	£36
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.	10,000	£15	£15	£600,000	£20,170	£1 for 2nd half-year making £2.00 for 1906	£298 buyers
Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited	10,000	£10	£10	£280,958	£24,242	10/- @ ex. 2/1 9/16 = \$4.69	£83 sellers
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited (Preference)	10,000	£50	£50	£40,000	£1,215	Interim div. of 1/- for 1905	£158 sellers
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited (Ordinary)	10,000	£1	£1	£4,144	£107,815	1/- (Coupon No. 7 for 1906)	£158 buyers
Star Ferry Company, Limited	10,000	£10	£10	£65,000	£218	£1.50 for year ending 30.6.1906	£30
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	10,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3513	Interim div. of 1/- account 1906	£1.19 buyers
<b>MINING.</b>							
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	20,000	£100	£100	£850,000	£40,914	Final of \$15 making \$25 for 1905	£122 sellers
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	£100	£100	£850,000	£132,588	£1 for 1905	£21
Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited	7,000	£15	£15	£100,000	£8,935	£1 (8%) for year ending 31.8.06	£15.75 sellers
<b>DOCKS, WHARVES &amp; GODOWNS.</b>							
Fenwick (Gos.) & Co., Limited	18,000	£25	£25	£70,000	£8,915	£2 for 1905	£10
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.	40,000	£10	£50	£1,000,000	£20,040	£2 1/2 for a/c 1906	£64
Long and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd.	10,000	£10	£50	£1,000,000	£400,933	£6 for 2nd half-year making \$12 for 1906	£9
New Amoy Dock Company, Limited	10,000	£64	£64	£1,000,000	£2,221	£1 for 1905	£12
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.	15,700	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final of 1/- making 1/- for 1905/6	£107 buyers
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited	32,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Interim div. of 1/- on account 1906	£12
Do. do. do. (new)	2,500	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£18 for 1905	£122 sellers
Yangtze Wharf and Godown Company, Limited	7,500	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£18 for 1905	£122 sellers
<b>LANDS, HOTELS &amp; BUILDINGS.</b>							
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.	25,000	£100	£100	£1,000,000	£1,3997	First year	£105 buyers
Shanghai House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai)	10,000	£25	£25	£30,000	£8,418	£3 for year ended 30.6.1906	£122 buyers
Central Stores, Limited	24,000	£15	£15	£1,000,000	£4,719	£2.40 on 12 for 1905	£104 buyers
Do. (new issue)	123	£15	£15	£1,000,000	£4,719	£7 on 37 for 1905	£104 buyers
Do. (Founders)	123	£15	£15	£1,000,000	£4,719	£7 on 37 for 1905	£104 buyers
Longkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	£50	£50	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£5 for second half-year making \$10 for 1906	£118 ex div.
Longkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	10,000	£100	£100	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final div. of 1/- making 1/- for 1906	£107 buyers
Hotel des Colonies Company, Limited	9,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final of 6% = 10% for 1905	£122
Hotel Metropole Company, Limited	2,000	£100	£100	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final of 6% making 10	£122
Empire Estate & Finance Company, Limited	150,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	80 cents for 1906	£122
Fowloon Land and Building Company, Limited	10,000	£50	£50	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£24 for 1906	£122
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	10,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final div. of 1/- & bonus 1/- (old sh.) & 1/- (new sh.) for 1906	£122
Do. do. (new issue)	10,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final div. of 1/- making 1/- for 1906	£122
West Point Building Company, Limited	12,500	£50	£50	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final div. of 1/- making 1/- for 1906	£122
<b>COTTON MILLS.</b>							
Two Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd.	15,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£10 for year ended 31.10.1906	£122
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving & Dyeing Company, Limited	125,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£12 for the year ending 31.7.06	£122
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	10,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£10 for year ended 30.9.06 (8%)	£122
Lao-kung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£10 for 1906	£122
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	2,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£10 for 1906	£122
<b>MISCELLANEOUS.</b>							
Anglo-German Brewery Company, Limited	4,000	£100	£100	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£7 for 1905	£122
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,000	£12/6	£12/6	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£3 per share for 1905	£122
Campbell, Moore & Co., Limited	1,200	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£1 for 1905	£122
China-Borneo Company, Limited	60,000	£12	£12	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final of 1/- making 1/- for 1905	£122
China Flour Mill Co., Limited	4,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	50 cents for year ended 28.2.06	£122
China Light and Power Company, Limited	50,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	80 cents for 1906	£122
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ltd.	100,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£1.30 for year ending 31.7.1906	£122
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	25,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final of 1/2 making 1.00 for 1906	£122
Green Island Cement Company, Limited	200,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£24 for year ending 28.2.06	£122
Hall & Holt, Limited	21,000	£20	£20	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£100 for 10 months ending 28.2.06	£122
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£5 cents for 10 months ending 28.2.06	£122
Longkong High-Level Tramways Company, Ltd.	1,250	£100	£100	£1,000,000	£1,3997	1st div. of 20 for 10 months ending 18.10.05	£122
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	£125	£125	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final of 18 making 22 for yr. ending 31.12.06	£122
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	15,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£9 for 1905 on 5 shares	£122
Hongkong Steam Waterboat Company, Limited	15,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final of 50 cents making 1/- for the year	£122
Maatschappij tot Mijl. Bosch en Landbouwexploitatie in Langkat, Limited	25,000	£100	£100	£1,000,000	£1,3997	4th interim div. of 1/- making 1/- for 1906	£122
Philippine Company, Limited	67,500	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	None	£122
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited (old)	16,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Interim dividend of 1/- 3/- account	£122
Do. do. (new)	8,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	1906	£122
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	5,400	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£1.6 for 1904	£122
Shanghai Pulp and Paper Company, Limited	4,500	£100	£100	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Interim div. of 1/- 5/- account 1906	£122
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Company, Limited	30,000	£20	£20	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Interim div. of 15/- for 1906	£122
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited	8,175	£20	£20	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Interim div. of 5/- for 1906	£122
South China Morning Post, Limited	7,200	£25	£25	£1,000,000	£1,3997	None	£122
Steam Laundry Company, Limited	20,000	£5	£5	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£9 for 1905 on 5 shares	£122
Tientsin Waterworks Company, Limited	2,000	£100	£100	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final of 50 cents making 1/- for the year	£122
United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited (Founders)	9,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	4th interim div. of 1/- making 1/- for 1906	£122
Do. do. do. (Founders)	100	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	£70 cents for year ended 31.5.1906	£122
Watson, (A. S.) & Co., Limited	90,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Interim of 40 cents for account 1906	£122
William Powell, Limited	15,000	£10	£10	£1,000,000	£1,3997	Final of 3/- cts. making 3/- cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1906	£122
<b>DIVIDENDS PAYABLE.</b>							
China and Manila S. S. Co.	£1						March 13th
Hk. and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co.	£21						20th



# The Hongkong Telegraph.

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commendable spirit of promptitude in securing Chinese capital for the undertaking whose completion from his view-point cannot but redound to the benefit of Hongkong "and to the trade of his own country." Such was the prediction of his Excellency on the occasion of his reception in Hongkong in November last en route to Canton to take up his new appointment there. From our correspondents' information, Taotai Wen has made his first and principal objective the Colony of Hongkong, where he arrived yesterday with the object of obtaining subscriptions to shares of the Railway Company which is to build the Chinese section of the Canton-Kowloon line. Seeing the eagerness with which the Chinese flocked to Canton previous to the allotment of the shares in the Canton-Hankow railway, and the large subscriptions obtained from all parts of China and the Chinese abroad, there is no reason to doubt that Taotai Wen's mission will be other than a complete success. It has been credited to the people of Southern China that, in the race, they are pre-eminently the shrewdest, the smartest and the cleverest of the commercial class of China. With their business acumen and the knowledge which they derive from the fact that the Colonial Government is pushing forward with all haste, compatible with efficiency, the construction of the section designed to link up the northern half originating from Canton, it may be regarded almost as a certainty that native capitalists are bound to look with considerable favour upon an enterprise which is certain to be remunerative to its promoters and shareholders. With the guarantee of joint British and Chinese management under a British engineer-in-chief, and vested as the Agreement is in the hands of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and one of the leading British firms in Hongkong—Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.—the undertaking possesses all the elements making for security, and the success which its completion and subsequent operation cannot fail to secure for its owners.

### MARITIME INTERESTS.

Recently, reference was made to the publication of a document issued by the Director of the S. C. W. Observatory by which masters of vessels were informed of a scheme arranged for the transmission of meteorological warnings to light-houses along the coast. It is now announced that with reference to the storm-signal repeating code, to come into use next May—about the beginning of the typhoon season—it is proposed to introduce along the coast of China numerous semaphores, repeating to the passing navigators the gale and typhoon warnings. In the course of his latest circular the Director states that owing to the kindness of the I. M. Customs, and with the liberal assistance of the Chinese and most of the foreign telegraph companies, the signals sent by the S. C. W. Observatory are transmitted to the principal ports. The neighbouring governments have taken the same step. Vladivostok, Tsingtau and Weihaiwei. This might, strikingly speaking, answer the want of the ships sailing from the harbours. But when in the offing no information is obtainable from the shore, except when passing in sight of Liukingtao and Gutiaff. Moreover, a numerous and very interesting maritime population, viz., the junk and fishing boat people, are helplessly abandoned to a few empirical prognostics, not without value, but practically inadequate to prevent human hecatombs, which we have to deplore every year, when the mighty typhoons play havoc along the shores. It will probably be a long time before we have telegraphic connection with the most important signal places. To go ahead, the Observatory must needs rely upon the help of the commanding officers. But the deep feeling of solidarity and mutual fraternity is so well known and so proverbial among sailors, that, after consultation with the Coast Inspector, it was judged quite safe to make a start. The Inspector General has consequently granted the erection of 25 semaphores at the points named in the code, to repeat the warnings, as explained there.

### THE QUESTION OF FIRE ESCAPES.

(5th March.)

As the result of a disastrous fire which occurred the other day in the central district of Victoria—in which six persons were burned to death—a matter of supreme importance to the native residents in the more crowded sections of the city was brought to light in the inquest which followed. The fire began in the lower floors while the inhabitants were asleep, with the result that before assistance could be rendered, and the residents brought to a realisation of their danger, all escape by the ordinary staircase had been cut off and safety could only be attained by way of the roof. From the evidence adduced, the only means of gaining the roof was by way of a bamboo ladder. The usual rickety arrangement in no way designed to prove adequate in times of emergency. The usual panic occurred among the terrified people, and before half of the tenants had been dragged to safety the ladder took fire and six lives were lost. One of the jurymen suggested that under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance certain provisions are included for the erection of fire escapes in tenement houses, and certain recommendations were made by the jury as to the necessity for ensuring the enforcement of the law on this subject. To begin with, everybody knows how absolutely absurd are the means of quick egress from buildings which are solely occupied by the poorer classes of Chinese. The staircases are ridiculously narrow, almost perpendicular, and invariably dangerous in ordinary times when there is no occasion for the resident to make a hurried exit. Even in houses of modern construction no attempt has been made to depart from the custom of curtailing the width of the passage-way. The whole aim and object of the builder seems to be to snatch every available inch of space from the staircase at the expense of any reasonable degree of convenience. The wood employed in the construction of these houses is of the commonest description, as dry as tinder and, therefore, ready to ignite on the slightest pretence. If the staircase goes, there is only one refuge and that is the roof, but to reach

the roof the fugitives must make use of some antiquated ladder which itself is as inflammable as the staircase. In a rider to their verdict the jury in question said: "We would recommend that section 149 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903, with regard to fire escapes, be strictly enforced." Now, it will be interesting to turn to section 149, which the jury evidently believed would meet the question. The section reads: "Every new building shall be provided, on every storey, the floor of which is more than forty feet above the level of the street, with such means of escape in the case of fire for the persons dwelling or employed therein, as the Building Authority may reasonably require. The provisions of this section shall, after the expiry of three years from the date of the commencement of this Ordinance, apply to existing buildings." No doubt those who framed the Ordinance were animated by the most laudable desire to enable those residing in tenements to escape from a burning building even if the lower storeys forbade egress by the ordinary passage. And the jury had the same end in view when they added their rider to the verdict. But a brief consideration of the section will show that it is practically useless as a precautionary measure. For instance, it only applies to buildings where the floor is 40 feet from the level of the street. In the case of the Loi Lane fire, the highest floor was less than 40 feet from the street, yet more than half the residents were caught in a death-trap. Besides, at a height of 20 feet from the ground the tenants might be in as great danger of their lives as they would be in a building ten feet high. So that the rider to the verdict, although added in all good faith and with the best of intentions, might appear to have done an injustice to those whose duty it was to see that the provisions of the Ordinance were carried out. Again, the section simply speaks about "means of escape" and gives no indication of what the Building Authority might "reasonably require." It might be held that a rope was a sufficient means of escape, but what would be quite satisfactory so far as adults were concerned would not always meet the requirements of children. In many respects the Ordinance as it stands is incomplete, ambiguous and crude. It will have to be improved out of recognition before it can be considered an effective instrument, and one can only trust that the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance Commissioners, who are said to have practically concluded their work, have not overlooked this vital point which means so much to the community in general.

### THE CHINA MERCHANTS' COMPANY.

(6th March.)

The China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company has long held a prominent position in the shipping world of China, and may fittingly be described as the Cunard Line of China. Hitherto, the Company, although owned and controlled by Chinese shareholders in the North and South, in the Straits, and in fact, wherever Chinese subjects have settled, has not been registered as a limited liability company, for the very good reason that until the formation of the Nung Kung Shing, or Ministry of Agriculture, Works and Commerce, there existed no registration laws in China. Since the formation of the Ministry of Commerce, however, and the enactment of laws affecting the registration of companies, it has become practicable for corporations to be registered on lines very similar to those obtaining with us. As we recorded in a special telegram from Shanghai last week, a meeting of the shareholders in the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company was held with the object of electing special representatives of the company for the purpose of registering it as a commercial concern in the Ministry of Agriculture, Works and Commerce. According to our information, the promoters of that meeting held the object of registering the company in view some three months ago, and they proceeded with great diligence to secure their end, and at the same time to conform to the articles of association, by obtaining the required majority to elect a board consisting of the following gentlemen: H.E. Shen, Kung-pao, Taotai Shen Tun-ho, Taotai Chou Chin-chén, Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Director of the Chinese Telegraph Company; Taotai Wong Sze-chan, Director of the Imperial Bank of China, and Taotai Yu Yeh-ching, comprador of the Netherlands Bank. Strictly speaking, while this board is not constituted entirely of the official element, the character of its constitution did not entirely commend itself to those Cantonese shareholders who were present at the meeting, but as they were in the minority the voice of the majority prevailed. It was stated that those present represented some 22,816 shares, or over half the share capital of the concern, and the nominations submitted were adopted. This procedure, not meeting with the concurrence of the Cantonese shareholders in the North, they promptly telegraphed to their compatriots in Hongkong and Canton, with the object of obtaining the support of the latter in a joint protest against the board elected by the Shanghai shareholders. In response to that appeal, a meeting of shareholders was held in Hongkong on Monday, H.E. Cheong Pat-zai, who presided, being supported by H.E. Wu Ting-fang. The result of that meeting has already been published. Three resolutions were passed. The first was to the effect that local shareholders were entirely in favour of the proposal that the concern should be registered as a limited liability company. The local shareholders, however, declared their

objection to the constitution of the board elected in Shanghai, holding, as one of those present put it, that the Northern shareholders were going behind the backs of the shareholders abroad. Cantonese members expressed the belief that the registration of the company could be quite as effectively secured through the instrumentality of the present board of directors and officers of the company, contending that the latter were a more representative body, since they comprised both the official element as well as members of the mercantile community, and consequently, were more intimately concerned with the interests and requirements of the company. They further contended that the articles of association empowered the present officials to effect the registration, and no necessity existed for the appointment of a specially constituted and entirely independent body, such as that proposed. Dissatisfaction was also expressed with the shortness of notice that had been given shareholders abroad regarding the intention of the Shanghai shareholders to effect so important a change in the constitution of the company. We are quite in sympathy with the views expressed by the Cantonese shareholders, particularly with regard to the last point. If the matter were left entirely in the hands of officials—although we do not in any way impeach the character of those nominated in Shanghai—there could be no certainty that the tendency might not be gradually to subvert the mercantile interests of the concern to the interests of the official section which would be to the detriment of those most vitally concerned in the future of the company. While this point was not raised at the meeting on Monday, the inference is obvious from the protest of the Cantonese in Shanghai and Hongkong against the nominations adopted in the North. In China the same practice should obtain in matters affecting trade and commerce as in England, and official interference is entirely to be deprecated as being inimical to the best interests of those whose money is invested in the concern and who are most affected by the prosperity of the corporation. The result of the vigorous action adopted by the Cantonese section of the shareholders in the company will be awaited with the utmost interest.

### BRITAIN'S CONSULAR SYSTEM.

(7th March.)

Those who have had any experience of British consuls abroad are seldom enthusiastic in their favour, and for many reasons. In not a few cases the demands of what they conceive to be their social duties fail to harmonise with their obligations. And far too frequently they leave the affairs of their office to subordinates who are either of alien birth or are dreaming of vistas which may be realised through the influence of friends. Fortunately, the era of petticoat government has passed—shall we say with the late dilettante government of Great Britain? There are men like Mr. Alexander Hosie, who was all that a consul should be, a striking type of the representative of the United Kingdom as a commercial agent in the Far East. His merits were tardily recognised and would probably have gone to oblivion had it not been that a Liberal Ministry came into power, and appointed one of the most active, keen-sighted and delving pioneers of British prospects on this part of the globe, to be the commercial attaché to China. But with the advent of the new forces which are at the head of the Empire it is quite possible that the British consul will become a personage rather than an appanage. Since Mr. Lloyd-George became President of the Board of Trade, an effort has been made to infuse new life into the consular corps and some of his proposed reforms are crisply enunciated. He predicates four proposals: (1) The telegraphic of important information so that it does not reach this country hopelessly belated. (2) The selection of future consuls from men who have passed through the Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade. (3) The numerical strengthening of the service. (4) A census of the production of the industries of the country. There is much more behind this than meets the eye. It means that the conscientious consul will no longer be tied down to routine, hide-bound formulae. It means that the consular butterfly will have to attend to his duties. It means that great effects will flow from little causes and that the admirable American service will not be alone in informing home merchants of trade possibilities. We have only to turn to the consular reports which arrive from England regarding commerce in China. They are invariably belated extracts of the information supplied by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. When Mr. Lloyd-George realises his idea of making consuls representatives of the nation—take, for instance, Mr. G. Liebert's description of foreign methods in South China as an example of what should be done—then we shall hear no more cries about "Wake up Britain."

### SCAVENGERS AND HEALTH.

(8th March.)

"Where'er ye throw the carrion, the raven's croak is heard," so said Macaulay. Had the great essayist even visited Hongkong, and indeed, the Far East generally, he might have had something to add, and absolved the raven from being the only carrion seeker. Nowadays, one picks up the home papers in trepidation, for fear of what the medical fraternity may have discovered as the latest menace to the health and life of the people. Germs we have all ways with us, above us, below us, and on all

sides of us—to-day it is the chit-book which threatens us; anon it is the very necessary envelope; to-morrow it is the yesterday's blotting-pad; and again it is a hundred and one things, which we daily eat, drink, wear and use. The menace is an unceasing one, and also an increasing one, until it comes to this, that if we are to place any credence on these marvellous discoveries of the searchers after germs and bacilli, then there is but one course left open to us—to revert to the primitive conditions prevailing in the days of our antediluvian ancestors, and live "the simple life" of the hill and the forest, far from the maddening crowd of the city and the town. We must not eat this, we must not wear that, we must not touch the other, we are told by these wiseacre alarmists, until they would have us go hungry and naked till we die. That germs are always with us we must admit and be prepared for, especially in the tropics, but that is no reason why we should go out of our way to look for them in unexpected places, and, finding them, blazon our discovery to the world by the way of the latest scare. Here in this city we know, from the very condition of the soil, and the drainage system, or the want of it—that we are threatened daily, nightly, and hourly by these little horrors, the germs of this or that, and everyone, more or less takes ordinary precautions to avoid coming in contact with them, as far as lies in one's power. Under these circumstances the result of a case which came before Mr. Melbourne at the Magistrate's court this morning, cannot but be read with much dissatisfaction. That the law is in fault we have no doubt, and the Magistrate can only administer the law as he finds it. But if it is so, why is it so? In the case under consideration two coolies were charged at the Police Court with turning over the heaps of garbage placed at West Point to the scavenger's junk to carry out to sea, their sole object being to discover, if possible, something worth their labour, and from which they could provide themselves with at least one day's keep. There might be no particular harm in that were as far as they went; but they did not stop there. With a thoroughness worthy of a better cause, and quite unusual in the Chinese of the lowest classes, they turned the hoops over to such purpose, that the refuse was scattered and spread in all directions, causing the emission of noxious odours and gases, rendered more noxious by the turning over, and attracting the germ-carrying flies to the spot. The charge against the men was proved; and what was the result? They were bound over in the sum of \$25 each to be of good behaviour for three months. The result would have been the same if they had been the means of flooding West Point, and, through that district, the whole Colony, with an epidemic of disease. Two days ago, a nightsoil coolie was fined \$25 for dumping nightsoil at the back of houses on the Peak—a filthy and dangerous habit—he was fined \$25. The fine is paid in the first instance by the contractor in whose service the coolie is, so what cares the coolie? He pays the fine eventually by means of deductions from his pay, but so small are these, of necessity, that he does not feel that he is being punished at all, for the law does not allow the contractor to thrash his offending servants. Possibly—even probably—the legislators, when they dealt with these offences, considered that the penalties provided were "quite exemplary enough to meet the gravity of the case," but be that as it may, the fact remains that our health, and even our lives, might be at the disposal, and at the sport of any ignorant coolie who chose to disobey the first laws of sanitation. Let the law be made really effective for dealing with these cases; and then, perhaps, we shall hear of the Chinese of the class we have mentioned taking to heart the English proverb with slight variations, "let sleeping dogs (as well as garbage heaps) lie."

### TELEGRAMS.

#### "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

#### BRITISH ATTACHE'S VISIT.

#### BOUND FOR HONGKONG AND COAST PORTS.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 4th March, 2.40 p.m.

Mr. Alexander Hosie, the British Commercial Attaché in China, leaves Shanghai for Hongkong to-night, with the object of spending about four weeks in visiting the Southern ports of the Chinese Empire.

#### "DAKOTA" ASHORE.

#### NEAR YOKOHAMA ENTRANCE.

FEARED TOTAL WRECK.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 4th March, 2.40 p.m.

The steamship *Dakota* is badly ashore at the Cape King entrance to Yokohama.

It is feared she will become a total wreck.

We received the following from the local agents of the Great Northern B. S. Co.:

We beg to inform you that we have received the following telegram from Tokyo:—  
"The *Dakota* went on ashore at Nojima, with slight damage, yesterday evening, forty miles from Yokohama. Mails, passengers and crew saved."

#### CLAIM FOR MONEY LENT.

TO A PAKHOI MERCHANT.

In Summary Jurisdiction at the Supreme Court on the 7th inst., before his Honour Mr. A. G. Wise, J., presiding, Lo Siu Ting and Choy Quan Shao, carrying on business as bankers at Pakhoi, in the Empire of China, sued Chan Yuk Sang, of No. 78, Sheung Wan Market, and Wong Pui Hing of No. 235, Des Voeux Road, West, carrying on business as Fuk Sang Cheung, at No. 235, Des Voeux Road, West, and at Pakhoi, for the recovery of the sum of \$833.34, being the amount of money lent by plaintiffs to defendants on the 6th December, 1905, together with interest thereon, and the costs of this action.  
Mr. F. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for the plaintiffs.  
Mr. Otto Kong Sing representing the defendants.  
Evidence was heard.

#### ALLEGED KIDNAPING.

"WAS ASKED TO NURSE IT."

A somewhat curious case of alleged kidnapping was called before Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, J., the Magistrate this morning, when one Li Yut Kiu, residing at No. 5, Ezra Lane, was charged with stealing a child eight months of age, from the custody of its grandmother, Hing Kan, on the 12th Feb. last. According to the story for the prosecution the accused went to complainant's house, No. 70, Third Street, on the day in question, to visit the family, with whom she was on very good terms, and there found the grandmother nursing the child. They sat down together and conversed upon general matters, until, after a while, the grandmother, saying that she had something to look after in the kitchen, asked the visitor to hold the child, at the same time handing the accused the child. After a while the grandmother returned to the room in which she had left the child, or only to find that the latter, together with her charge, had disappeared, leaving no sign and no message. The grandmother, in a frantic state, went off and reported the matter to Inspector Collett, who sent his myrmidons out on the search, but nothing was seen either of the kidnapper or of the kidnapped for three weeks. Yesterday afternoon, however, while passing along Pottinger Street, detective sergeant 17 saw Li Yut Kiu, with the missing child in her arms. The woman was immediately arrested and taken to the Station, where she said he did not steal the child, she only took it because she was asked to nurse and take care of it, and she was doing so! The case was remanded.

#### "WHY REMAIN IN HONGKONG?"

6th inst.

In Mr. F. A. Hazeldene's court, this morning, Chief Detective Inspector "Hanson" charged Lai Kam, a boarding house runner, of No. 217, Des Voeux Road Central, and Chan Leung, a coolie, residing in a makeshift at Quarry Bay, with attempting to kidnap a youth, sixteen years of age, on the 4th inst. Although no evidence has been taken as yet, the particulars of the case, as given us, read as follows:—Tseung Kwai, the youth, works with the second defendant in a matchbox at North Point. He has no guardian in Hongkong, his widowed mother, whom it is stated, he supports, residing in the interior. Of late, we are told, the coolie has been speaking to the boy of "foreign lands and the fortunes that could be made there in a short while." The boy, however, refused at first to listen to any tall yarns—but he was conquered on Monday last. "Come on now," the coolie is reported as saying. "Let us leave this country and go elsewhere where we can make more money. Why remain in Hongkong?" The boy thought of his mother, he thought of the large sums of money he had heard of "the land of gold fields," and finally decided to cross the ocean. On Monday night they decided to shift. The lad was taken to the boarding-house runner's house where he was kept until yesterday, when he was put on board a river steamer, which touched at Macao first before making any attempt to reach the "land of gold fields." While the lad and his two advisers were comfortably installed on board the boat, a detective happened along and thinking everything "wasn't right," with the party of three over there "called a boy aside and questioned him. After a few minutes' conversation the detective decided to take the trip to the Central Station. Here the boy told the whole story and his alleged kidnappers were held for trial. The case was brought up formally this morning and adjourned."

#### ALLEGED THEFT OF CIGARETTES.

—OPENING OF THE CASE.

Evidence was adduced at the Police Court, this afternoon, before Mr. C. A. D. (Melbourne), in the case in which Charles Humphrey Kane, shipping clerk, and Ho Kwai, tallyman, in the employ of the British-American Tobacco Company, are being charged with the larceny of tobacco and cigarettes, valued at \$5,655, the property of the company, and a shopkeeper named Li Tai Chiu, and his assistant, Li Cheung, who are charged with receiving the goods, knowing them to have been stolen. Practically all the property has been recovered by the West Point police.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens appeared for the prosecution on all charges. Mr. H. J. Gardiner, of Mr. O. D. Thomson's office, appeared for the first defendant. Mr. R. Harding appeared on behalf of the second defendant. Mr. P. W. Golding, of Messrs. Golding and Barlow, defended the two men for receiving the property. Sergeant Gordon watched the case on behalf of the police.

The case against the first two defendants was taken first, as the police require the two men, who are charged with receiving the property, to give evidence against them. Sergeant Gordon testified as to recovering part of the property. He said that on the 1st inst. he was called to No. 410, Queen's Road West (ground floor). In this house he found one full case of Pirates cigarettes and several cases of Egyptian Delight tobacco. Outside this shop he arrested two men, a Mr. Kane

## The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1907.

CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY.

(4th March.)

The representatives of the British and Chinese Corporation, who have obtained the Agreement for the construction of the Chinese section of the Canton-Kowloon Railway, appear to be losing no time to put into operation the terms of the Agreement. According to our Canton correspondent, Viceroy Chow Fu, on the representation of the British concessionaires, is in receipt of a despatch from the Ministry of Posts and Communications at Peking requesting the Viceroy to ascertain to what extent the Southern Chinese are willing to subscribe to the shares of the railway. It must be remembered that, according to one of the published terms of the Agreement, "work on the railroad is to be started within eight months [of the signing of the Agreement], falling which the Agreement is to be annulled." In giving immediate effect to instructions from Peking, H.E. Chow Fu is, therefore, exhibiting a



later "from information received" he searched No. 335, Queen's Road West, and there found four cases of Three Castles Cigarettes valued at \$1700. On the following morning, a witness, who had been there thirty-one boxes of Egyptian Delight tobacco, valued at \$70. That day he went to the office of the British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd., Bank Building, where he arrested the defendant. On making inquiries into the case, witness said, he was given to understand that goods to the value of \$10,000 have been stolen from the complainant firm and that part of the goods was in Macao. The reason, he concluded, why he objected to the first defendant being released on bail was that the chance of recovering the rest of the property would be small.

When the case was opened Mr. Stephens started to call his witnesses without outlining the facts of the case.

Mr. Gardiner—We want the case outlined. Mr. Stephens—I will not do it.

Mr. Gardiner—It is the custom.

Mr. Stephens—I don't know that it is.

Mr. Gardiner—We are entitled to it.

Mr. Stephens—I am going to call Mr. Harrison and I don't see why I should outline the case when I have my witnesses to do that. I might be wrong on some points to do that.

After further argument Mr. Stephens was allowed to follow his own course.

Mr. Harrison, the manager of the Hongkong depot of the British-American Tobacco Co., called, said that the company had a godown at No. 6, Cross Lane, Wanchai. This godown was in charge of a coolie, who has since absconded. All the goods in this godown, he said, belonged to his company.

"Did you on the 28th February issue any order for four cases of Three Castles cigarettes for the Royal Garrison Artillery Institute?" asked Mr. Stephens.

"I never did," witness answered.

"Do you know if the cigarettes seized by the police were sold?" "No."

Continuing, witness said that the cases of Three Castles cigarettes in question formed part of twelve cases ex s.s. *Dinga Maru*, which arrived here some weeks ago. No part of this shipment was sold and the twelve cases still stand intact in the company's books. Witness thought that the godown keeper would be acting against explicit instructions and contrary to long established custom if he issued goods of a later arrival before those of an earlier arrival had been sold. In consequence of shortages in stock witness paid a visit to the godown and found a cake of Three Castles cigarettes booked for a certain firm. Some time in November last witness handed first defendant an order. He was to go over to the Kowloon godowns, take charge of two cases of tobacco, have them transported to West Point and burnt.

Defendant returned at five o'clock that evening and said: "I have seen that tobacco and it is destroyed." The second accused presented a bill for the use of petrol and tobacco. Witness instructed first defendant to deal in a similar manner with a shipment about 5th or 6th February. Witness is quoted as saying that it comes cheaper burning the tobacco here than returning it to England where duty will have to be paid. Part of the Egyptian Delight tobacco now in the hands of the police formed part of the shipment which was supposed to have been burnt during the earlier part of February. In the case of the second shipment witness asked Kane that afternoon whether he had done all that was wanted of him, and he replied: "Yes." Instead of burning the goods the defendant, so it was alleged, got rid of a number of cases to several shopkeepers at West Point.

The case was adjourned.

### ALLEGED ROBBERY AT KOWLOON.

HOUSEBOY'S EXPERIENCES.

Pan Leung, a cook, residing at Kowloon, was arraigned before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, this afternoon, at the Police Court, charged with committing robbery "houseboy" (Nan Kien) in the employ of a family at No. 1, Lochiel in the Kowloon. On the afternoon of 21st February last, he said, he was alone in his master's house, the N. 1 houseboy having gone to Hongkong to make a purchase. During his absence witness heard a knock at the front door, and on going to investigate saw defendant. He was wearing a European cap and a pair of spectacles. Witness opened the door and accused entered the house. He asked for the "N. 1" boy and was told he was not at home. He asked what time the "boy" was expected back. He was told about the clock. Defendant then left, but was shortly returned, and on being admitted, demanded the keys. Witness said the houseboy had taken them away, whereupon defendant took the key out of the kitchen door and tried to open the "boy's" room with it. The key would not fit, so accused seized complainant, and said: "If you do not hand up the keys I'll stab you to death." Defendant then tied the lad's hands, and feet with string, lashed him to a settee, and threw a thick quilt over his head so as to drown any noise, after which he left the room, locking the door behind him. In his unconscious position witness heard a window being smashed. Witness, after a struggle, succeeded in shaking the quilt off him, but just at this minute accused re-entered the room. "Look out now," he said, "if you try to escape you'll be stabbed to death." Accused left the room once more. During his absence the lad managed to free himself. Accused by that time had escaped. About a month later accused returned to the house, but witness was afraid to tell the houseboy in his presence of the treatment he had received at his hands. When accused left, however, he told everything, which led to accused's arrest.

Further evidence was heard and the case set for another hearing.

### COUNTERFEITER CONVICTED.

A RECORD FINE.

The Tai-mai-tai Police established a record for the year at the Police Court, this morning, when their representative succeeded in getting one of their prisoners fined a sum which ran into four figures—a record which will require some beating. Shortly before eleven o'clock last night the Police Constable Willis was on duty near the coal sheds at Kowloon. He noticed a coolie, carrying a bundle on his shoulder, coming in his direction. The size of the bundle and the curious behaviour of the man aroused his curiosity and he was stopped and searched. Nothing incriminating was found on the man's person, but in his bundle a huge amount of what the officer first thought was silver, was discovered. He was arrested and taken to the Station. There the man said he was Leung Yung Uo, a tinsmith by profession, residing at No. 37, Temple Street, Yau-ma-tei. The "money" was tested and counted, and of 252 twenty-cent pieces every coin was found to be counterfeit. At the Police Court, this morning, he was arraigned before Mr. F. A. Hazeland in answer to the charge. He admitted possession, but refused to say from where he got the spurious money. His Worship fined him \$3 for every counterfeit

coin, making a total fine of \$756, or in default, four months' hard labour. He was also ordered to be placed in the stocks for six hours. Needless to say the fine was not paid.

### A DANGEROUS CHARACTER.

ASKED FOR MONEY—GETS IRON BAR.

A Chinaman, who at one time was wanted by the city police for attempting to commit a double murder in Des Vaux Road West by attacking a man and his wife with a pair of scissors, but who, together with the injured couple "jumped the city," thereby quashing the case as far as the police was concerned, as one of the injured parties, it was alleged, died in Canton from the injuries, was arrested yesterday afternoon at West Point, on a charge of assault. The complainant was Cheung Seng, a coolie, residing at No. 216, Hollywood Road. What was the cause of the trouble was not stated, but it is believed money was at the bottom of it. Complainant, it was said, lent accused some money a year or two ago. Accused disappeared from the island for some considerable time. They met yesterday, complainant pressed for the return of the loan, and was struck on the arm with an iron bar. A second blow was aimed at his skull, but he ducked in time and saved his scalp. Accused was arraigned before Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, at the Police Court, today, in answer to the charge and was bound over in the sum of \$200 to keep the peace for one year.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

### THE PARSEE TELEGRAM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." SIR,—In your last Friday's issue, there appeared correspondence concerning the Parsees of Persia, in which the writer suggests that the Parsee community should hold a meeting to send a reply to His Majesty's telegram, regarding his love towards his Parsee subjects.

Perhaps your Parsee readers are unaware of the incident that induced the Shah to send that telegram to his Excellency the Governor. A Parsee firm of the Colony had received a telegram recently from their Bombay Agency about the murder of a Parsee merchant (who represented the Parsee firm in Persia) in Yazdegerd, a town in Persia. It is said that the murder took place in a revolt, which arose on the accession of the present Shah, as other people wanted to give the Persian Throne to a nephew of the late Shah.

The Parsee firm wired to the Minister at Teheran, calling his attention to the unfortunate result of the revolt, and asking him to draw attention of the Shah to the incident. It is understood that the Shah, not knowing the firm of the Colony, wired to His Excellency. I don't think it is quite necessary for the Hongkong Parsees to reply to the telegram—I am, etc.

### LOYALTY.

Hongkong, 4th March, 1907.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." SIR,—The letter of Mr. "H. S. K." in the *Morning Post* regarding the writer's misunderstanding of sending a cable reply by Mr. H. N. Mody to His Majesty the Shah, has been forwarded, and that without the Parsees' meeting none has power to cable in the name of the community. Your correspondent "Loyalty's" explanation as to the reason to induce the Shah to forward the telegram through His Britannic Majesty's Minister is startling, but as to keep for the future safeguard to our poor Parsees living in Persia, it is necessary to cable the Parsees' gratitude to the Shah for the further protection.

Almost every Parsee of Hongkong and Canton desire to have an immediate meeting to pass the suggestion, and it is hoped that Mr. Mody will be good enough to come out to preside the meeting.—Yours etc.,

"BITTER LATE THAN NEVER,"

Hongkong, 7th March.

### TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

DEAR SIR,—I read with interest in your issue dated 20th inst., under "Local and General" news of the death of Mr. R. W. Crocker at Taunton. With regard to his married life being the longest, I believe, I remember correctly, my grandfather's record beats it; my grandfather died at 95 years and his wife was about 94. His name was Mr. James Welch; he died a good many years ago but I think he beat Mr. Crocker by about one year. My father died about three living, age 79, my mother is still living, age 79. They celebrated their golden wedding just four days. It is so nice to hear of my birthplace after so many years. I know Mr. Crocker well. I have been nine years in Hongkong and only met during that time one Tauntonian. If you know of anyone having been there I should be glad to hear of it and should very much like to hear from them as I must know them and they would know me.

Thanking you for same. I am, etc.,

J. W. HARRIS.

37, Muirhead Road, Shanghai, February 28th, 1907.

### CRAIK CHILDREN FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

DEAR SIR,—Would you please publish that the above fund closes on the 18th inst., and those who have not yet forwarded their cheques might kindly do so before that date.

Thanking you in anticipation.—I am, etc.,

R. H. BAXTER.

Hon. Secretary.

Kowloon Dock Reading and Recreation Room.

Kowloon Docks, 2nd March, 1907.

### DROWNING FATALITY IN THE HARBOUR.

WOMAN INKS IN FRONT OF HUSBAND.

A Chinese boatman, the wife of Chang Sing, master of first-class cargo boat 7468, was drowned in the harbour last Thursday evening whilst in the company of her husband, who was unable to give her any assistance. The matter was reported to Inspector Ritchie, at the Central Police Station, shortly after eight o'clock. The cargo boat was anchored off the Harbour-master's wharf. At six o'clock, according to the report, the boatman, a fohi, his wife, and himself rowed ashore in a dinghy. After they had made certain purchases the trio started to return to the cargo-boat. The woman worked the punting pole, while the two men rowed. Half way to the junk a steam-launch, the name of which is still unknown, steamed past and her backwash swamped the dinghy, throwing the occupants into the water. The launch people apparently did not see what had occurred as they were some distance off when the dinghy was overturned. The woman, who was twenty-nine years of age, could not swim and sank immediately but a few yards from her husband and the fohi, who were also in difficulties, as they knew little of swimming. However, they managed to cling on to the overturned dinghy until assistance arrived. A search was then made for the body of the woman, but up to this morning no trace of it could be found.

### MASONIC REGALIA DANCE.

Under the auspices of the Scottish Masonic Quadrangle Association, writes a correspondent, a very successful "Regalia" dance was held last Thursday night at the City Hall. The popular have these monthly dances, proved that it is hardly necessary to dwell on the sociability that characterised the proceedings last evening. Amongst the numerous members and guests present were the District Grand Master of Scottish Freemasonry in Hongkong and South China, Dr. Jordan (President of the Association) and Mrs. Jordan, D. G. Master Depute Wor. Bro. F. Howell (Vice-President), D. G. Secretary, Wor. Bro. H. Horley, Dr. C. Forsyth and representatives from the various English and Scotch lodges in the Colony. The proceedings opened with a Masonic March, led by the District Grand Master, and as the couples promenaded round the spacious ballroom, some moving to the left, others to the right, as directed, a very pretty spectacle was presented. The music was furnished by the band of the steppe dance, for which the ladies donned their partners' regalia, and it must be admitted that the fair sex wore the orders as to the manner worn, and in fact no two ladies seemed alike, so varied were the regalia worn. There were ladies of the Rose Croix, the Royal Arch Chapter, the Ancient Order of Mariners, and ladies who were "master masons." There were ladies in the dark green of the District Grand Lodge, in red regalia and in the English blue regalia. To the onlooker it was a novel and picturesque blending of colour. The floor was in excellent condition, providing just a little too slippery at the evening's steppe dance, but ideal for waltzing. The Calcutta string band, as on former occasions, provided the music, which was delightfully rendered. The concluding dance is to be a "calico" fancy dress ball to take place on Wednesday, April 3rd, and will undoubtedly prove an excellent finale to a very successful season.

### CANTON DAY BY DAY.

THE NEW LIEUT. T. RTAR GENERAL.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 2nd March.

It is learned from official circles that the newly-appointed Senior Lieutenant Tatar General, Fu Ching will leave Peking about the 5th instant for Canton and is expected to arrive here to take up his new appointment about the beginning of the second month.

### CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY.

Tatari Wen Ho left here for Hongkong yesterday, for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions to shares there for the Canton-Kowloon Railway.

### FAREWELL TO MR. MAYERS.

Yesterday Mr. F. I. Mayers, Canton Commissioner of Customs, was entertained at a farewell dinner by H. F. the Viceroy. Among the guests present were the British Consul-General in Canton, Admiral Moore, who arrived in Canton on board H. M. S. *Alacrity*, and others. Mr. Commissioner Mayers will soon leave China on two years' leave.

### VILLAGE ROBBERY.

About the middle of last month a case of robbery was committed at Ho Pin Village, in the district of Namhoi. The robbers about fifteen in number entered the village, ransacked ten houses and took away spoils in the value of several thousand dollars. The robbers also kidnapped two small children, and when the alarm was raised the robbers escaped across the river.

### CANTON ARSENAL.

The Canton Arsenal has been extra busy lately. No holidays were observed even at the New Year. In fact, during the holidays the workmen had to work both day and night.

### POLICE SCHOOLS.

H. F. the Viceroy has been issued instructions to the Magistrates of the different districts of the province, to open schools for police in their respective districts in order that the present guards of the different districts may be trained, and on completion of their course of studies enter the police force of the province.

### "FUNG SHUI."

A certain gentry, surnamed Ip of Lung Ko Village, in the district of Namhoi bought a piece of land with a house on it in that village. Being an enlightened gentleman, he pulled down the old building and built a house of foreign design on the land. At about that time, the plague visited the village and carried off several persons of the village. The villagers now began to blame the foreign design of the structure as detrimental to the "fung shui" of the place and thus causing the visitation of the plague. The villagers have now decided to pull down this building if the owner does not do so himself, and the owner has now applied to the Namhoi Magistrate for protection.

### PUBLIC GARDENS.

Canton, 4th March.

When ex-Viceroy Shum was in office here, he selected a site at Shan Lung Hou in the eastern section of the new bund and proposed to build a public garden on the site. So far the present Viceroy has not carried the former Viceroy's proposal into effect, but appears to have shelved the idea, as the site of the proposed garden is more suitable for a business site than for a recreation ground, so that it was supposed that the building of the proposed gardens would probably be out of the question. It is now stated that a report on the necessity of a public garden for the people has been sent in by the officials of the Canton Bureau of Agriculture, Industries and Commerce to H. F. the Viceroy and consequently the Viceroy has now decided to adhere to the ex-Viceroy's scheme for building the garden but on another piece of ground instead of on the site as selected by Viceroy Shum.

### OPIMUM SMOKING.

H. F. Viceroy Chow has been paying special attention to the prohibition of opium smoking; he now does not allow any of his subordinates to smoke opium in his viceroy's office and keeps a sharp lookout for the offenders. A certain case of the opium-smokers in order that the Imperial Edict prohibiting opium smoking may be strictly carried into effect.

### RELIGIOUS FESTIVITIES.

Last week the city of Tai Lung in the Shun Tak District was greatly crowded with spectators, as in honour of the Goddess Tien Hou, the city was in *che fite* and there were processions, flower shows, and theatrical performances. It is said that a large sum of money was wasted on this occasion, which is to be observed every thirteen years. Yesterday a flower boat with a party of sixteen on board returning from Tai Lung was upset by the wash from the propellers of a passing steam launch, but fortunately all hands on board the flowerboat were saved.

### RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS.

Yesterday morning the official seals of the different yamens were re-opened for the transaction of public business and duties are now resumed as usual.

### SIR ROBERT HART.

A special telegram from Peking states that the report that Sir Robert Hart, Inspector-General of Customs, will soon leave his post on a two years' leave is an unfounded rumour.

### RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Another railway accident happened on the Canton-Fatshan Railway on Friday, the 1st instant, and one man was killed by a passing engine.

### MORE PIRACY.

On the 24th ultimo a cargo-junk plying between Sun Hing and Takhoi was plying about twenty miles when it was boarded by about twenty pirates, who looted the junk with cash and cargo to the value of several thousand dollars.

### ANTI-OPIMUM SOCIETY.

The Canton Anti-Opium Society, whose headquarters are at Wengsha, has proposed to open another lecture hall at Tai Luk Po. The opening ceremony will be made to-day and a commencement will be made in giving out anti-opium herbs. The Society since its inauguration last year has done a great amount of good to the opium-smoking public of Canton.

### CANTON RIVER BRIDGE.

Canton, 5th March.

The other day H. E. W. Ting Fang together with Mr. Wm. Danby, engineer for the iron bridge work, had an interview with H. E. Viceroy Chow. H. E. found the plan did not quite answer his requirements and desired that it be slightly altered accordingly. Two stations are proposed to be built at both termini of the bridge, one at Canton side and the other at Honam. On the Canton side there is ample space for the new bund for the purpose, but at Honam five buildings on the frontage have to be removed for the proposed station.

### OPIMUM SMOKING.

The Tartar Generals have jointly issued a proclamation ordering all the opium divans, in the quarters of the Bannermen inside the City, some twenty in number, to be closed within a period of three days and to prohibit all Bannermen from smoking opium. Offenders will be dealt with severely. The Tartar Generals are presently showing an energetic effort in the prohibition of opium smoking. In the last half year over one hundred opium divans at Fatshan have been closed.

### CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY.

The Viceroy has instructed the officials of the Bureau of Agriculture, Industries and Commerce to communicate with the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the different charitable institutions and to issue a proclamation for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions to shares of the Canton-Kowloon Railway.

### VICEROY SHUM.

An Imperial Decree was issued on the 3rd instant appointing H. E. Shum Chun Hsun to the position of Viceroy of Szechuen province and H. E. Sik Liang, present Viceroy of Szechuen, to be Viceroy of Yunan province. H. E. Shum was quite unwilling to take up the appointment, but after some time past to have his position changed, and has now gained his point. The decree orders them both to proceed at once to take up their respective positions.

### AN INDISPENSABLE OFFICIAL.

H. E. Viceroy Chow memorialized the Throne asking the Government to send H. E. Tang Shao-yi to Canton for the purpose of settling the railway affairs, but the request was refused on the intervention of Prince Ching on the ground that the coming negotiations between Russia and China require Tang's services in Peking.

### INSPECTING PROVINCIAL MINES.

Yesterday a telegram was received at the Viceroy's yamen stating that H. E. Chun Bik King, Inspector of Imperial Mines, will leave Shanghai for Canton on that day, so his arrival is expected in Canton in a few days. H. E. King has been ordered by the Tschuphu to proceed through the Empire on a tour of inspection of the different mines of the various provinces.

### TOKIO EXHIBITION.

Canton, 6th March.

The Japanese Consul at Canton has forwarded a despatch to H. E. the Viceroy asking him to send representatives to Japan for the Tokio Exhibition. On receipt of the despatch the Viceroy has given instructions to the Bureau of Agriculture, Industries and Commerce to issue a public notification stating that those officials or unofficials, who are intending to proceed there for the exhibition at their own expense, are requested to register their names at the Bureau, and that the registration list will be closed on the 13th instant.

### APPOINTMENTS.

On the 4th instant an Imperial decree was issued permitting H. E. Ting Chun Tok, present Viceroy at Yunnan and Viceroy-designate to Fukien, to resign from his post. The same decree appoints King Li to be Canton Tartar General vice Canton Tartar General-designate Shing Fun who is transferred to Mongolia.

### CANTON MINT.

As H. E. Chan Bik, inspector of mints, is expected to arrive here soon, the officials of the Canton mint are present rather busy in getting ready to hand over charge to him of the Canton mint for his management.

### NAVAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Admiral and Commander-in-Chief has arrived here from Beihai. It is reported that he will accompany H. E. Chow on the tour of inspection. He will also take over charge of all the military movements in the Weihow Prefecture, as they are to be under the jurisdiction of the commander-in-chief.

### THE PRISONS.

The prisoners of the Namhoi gaol are kept in several temporary prisons whilst the building of the new Namhoi gaol is under construction. A although work was commenced several months ago, the building has not been finished as yet. It is interesting to learn that a number of prisoners kept in one of these places, who are anxious to go to the new building, plotted and planned for some time an escape, and the wardkeeper, saying that the latter did not believe in the plan, reported the matter to the case to the Namhoi Magistrate, who therefore sent the keeper to take those prisoners to see the unfinished building themselves so that they might be satisfied.

### RIVER FATALITY.

The day before yesterday one of the ferry launches of the Canton-Fatshan Railway ran into a sampan on the river in mid-stream. It is reported that several lives were lost.

### MILITARY RE-ORGANISATION.

The Canton authorities propose this year to set aside the sum of Taels 1,300,000 for the purpose of re-organising the military force throughout the province. The amount at present forthcoming is Taels 400,000, so the Wei-yuen of the Canton Bureau of Military Affairs has petitioned H. E. the Viceroy on the fact asked him to devise means to make up the proposed amount for the purpose.

### A PRESENTATION.

Canton, 8th March.

As an acknowledgment and commemoration for the kind services and assistance rendered by the Namhoi Magistrate, Yu Yu Kwan, during and after the destructive flood of last year in the district over which he rules, where serious losses were sustained by the people, the lending members of the gentry in the various parts of the district have presented the Magistrate with scrolls, umbrellas, and other presents, before he hands over charge to his successor.

### THE NEW THEATRE.

The authorities are still not satisfied with the annual royalty of \$20,500 offered by the tenderers, Messrs. Wing Fat & Co., for the lease of the new theatre at Chun Lung Hou, on the eastern section of the new bund. The officials are still asking the company to increase the amount of royalty, to fix terms and to furnish them with substantial guarantees.

### WEISSER REVIVED.

The Fang Tak Company, promoters of the Weissger Lottery Monopoly of Canton, have advanced the sum of \$100,000 as royalty to the Canton Bureau of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, as part payment for the monopoly. The Bureau has reported the company to the Viceroy as being registered and requests H. E. to give the promoters authority to start the concern at an early date. But the regulations stipulated by the Company are in some respects not quite satisfactory. The Bureau has asked them to make slight alterations. The Bureau has also issued a proclamation notifying the public to that effect and requests all the local officials to give the promoters the necessary protection.

### CONSUL AT PERU.

Taotai Lai Hi, a native of Puyai District, who formerly was in the Chinese Consulate at Peru, has now been appointed Consul-General for China to that country, through the recommendation of Sir Chun Tung Liang Cheng, Chinese Ambassador at Washington. Taotai Lai is at present in Canton and will proceed to his new post about the beginning of the second month.

### CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY CO.

The Canton-Hankow Railway Company has sent out circulars calling for a meeting on the 8th instant at the Company's office, for the purpose of selecting representatives to send to Hongkong, in connection with the change of deposit.

### THE AMMUNITION DEPOT.

The Ammunition Depot at Shek Tsung is not spacious enough, as recently a large quantity of foreign ammunition has been imported. The authorities have decided to remove this depot to Tseng Po.

### RIVER INSPECTION.

As many of the people on the river launches are ignorant of the Harbour Regulations, they are frequently getting into trouble with the Customs. Mr. Li Chi has now been appointed an Assistant Superintendent of the Water Police Force; he is to take up the duty of inspecting the river and the plying of river launches. The Water Police Stations have been instructed to clearly notify the launches and the river people of the Harbour Regulations. Infractions of these regulations will be dealt with by the Harbour Master, but any matter, which concerns foreigners, will be conducted by Mr. Li Chi.

### CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY.

H. E. the Viceroy has received a despatch from the Waiwui stating that the capital of the Canton-Kowloon Railway Company will be £1,500,000 and has communicated with the Canton Bureau of Agriculture, Industries and Commerce to that effect and requesting the Bureau to communicate with the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Canton Chamber of Commerce, as to how much, about these institutions are prepared to take up in the concern.

### CHINA NAVIGATION CO.'S S.S. "KIAN."

BUILT BY THE SHANGHAI DOCK CO.

A large number of invited guests, reports the *Peking Times* of 4th inst., embarked at the Shanghai and Poochow Road jetties at 2.45 p.m. on Saturday, for the purpose of attending the opening ceremony of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd., to witness the launching of the new twin screw steamer *Kian*, which trim little vessel has been built to the order of the China Navigation Co., Ltd., who intend to use her in their Poyang Lake trade which, of late years, has greatly increased. Among the guests present were to be seen the leading members of the various shipping companies, insurance companies, banks, Customs, etc., a large number of the fair sex, in charming dresses adding greatly to the brilliancy of the scene. On arrival at the works, a move was made towards the handsome little craft, which had a platform draped with bunting, erected at her bow, on which the christening party and a number of guests took their places at 3.30 p.m. The last stock and dagger were knocked away, and Mrs. H. W. Robertson, wife of the Taikoo taipan, seized a bottle of champagne which was hanging over the vessel's bows by red, white and blue streamers of silk ribbons, and with the words: "I christen thee *Kian*, God bless you," she struck the silk covered bottle a resounding blow against the vessel's bows, and as the sparkling wine flowed in all directions, the vessel began to move, but, unfortunately, after going about ten feet, she stuck, and refused budge another inch. Several lines were then taken out to the tug *Vulcan*, which tried to tow the vessel off, but after three lines had been broken, the attempt was given up for the day. The cause of the vessel's striking was the freezing of the tallow with which the ways were greased. When it was seen that the vessel could not be launched an adjournment was made to the offices of the Company where refreshments of all kinds were served with a liberal hand, and the hope was expressed that the next attempt to launch the vessel would be more successful. The guests then began to make their way towards the waiting launches and a return was made to the Shanghai side, where the majority of the guests were landed before 5 p.m. The following is a description of the new vessel:—

The *Kian* is 220 feet between perpendiculars by 40 feet beam and 100 moulded depth, and constructed of the minimum steel scantlings; consistent with strength and durability for ensuring a vessel of the least possible draft. She has been constructed to the design and plans supplied by the owners which comprise many features and arrangements entirely new and should prove a serviceable and good cargo-carrying light draft steamer. The passenger accommodation is most complete and every consideration has been paid to this part of the vessel. The main deck has a deckhouse extending well forward and in which will be fitted out berths for third class while a space amidships is fitted up with cabins for second class passengers. The first class Chinese state rooms and saloon are arranged in a commodious house on the after part of the upper deck, while the forward part of this deck has a large house for European state rooms, saloon and lavatories. The appointment of crew, including the captain, is to be equal to those on first class River steamers, while the equipment, including a steam-wrapping capstan, steam windlass and steam steering gear for working her two rudders, will render her safe and easy in handling in all kinds of weather. The *Kian* will be propelled by two sets of direct acting, triple expansion, surface condensing engines and will be capable of developing together about 6,000 H.P. The steam is to be supplied by a cylindrical return tube boiler, constructed for a working pressure of 175 pounds per square inch, fitted with forced draught. This boiler











## HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Ltd., was held at the offices of the general manager, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., this morning. The Hon. Mr. J. Cresswell, president, and Messrs. A. H. Raymond, F. Maitland, and H. P. White, members of the consulting committee, Capt. W. E. Clarke, Messrs. C. H. Rogers, John Barton, W. A. Cruickshank, J. O'Farrell, W. H. Fook, A. H. M. de Silva, H. Percy Smith, W. H. Wickham, R. E. Barretto and F. N. Lee, were present.

The secretary read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and I will, therefore, with your permission, follow the usual course and take them as read. The business of the year 1905 has closed with results which the Consulting Committee, and I think, you also, will regard as gratifying; the profit for the year being the largest in the records of the company. The premium income shows an increase of \$27,793.28 as compared with the preceding year, and this increase has been secured without in any way departing from the lines we have consistently followed, and which we believe, are essential to the continued prosperity of the company. Our policy being, so far as possible, to confine our acceptances to those classes of risks which, though lower rated, have been proved on a long experience to yield the most profitable results. The difficulties of pursuing this policy have not been diminished by the ever increasing competition to secure business, and whilst we naturally expect and anticipate having to face competition in our endeavour to retain our position, we have to deplore the lengths to which this tendency in certain areas, where we have large connections, and more particularly in the North, the desire to swell premium incomes has resulted in an exploiting by others of the insurance of Chinese contents, and the granting of policies to undesirable applicants, which unquestionably bears close relationship to the increasing frequency of fires, possibly also involving the property of reputable and desirable insurers, and not infrequently leading to litigation serving to bring the business of fire insurance into disrepute. Our losses for the year were not very heavy, and unusually low, being only 10.7 per cent of the premium income. Commissions and expenses have remained within the bounds of economy and are below the ratio of most of our competitors, whilst our interest account shows a sensible increase. Of course, I cannot venture to predict the outcome of the year 1906 but we view with satisfaction the fact that, up to date, the result is even better than for the corresponding period of 1905 business. I do not think that our assets and liabilities call for any detailed remarks at this time. Your attention has been directed in the report to the compulsory deposit we have in Japan to enable us to transact business in that country. The bonds which form this deposit stand in Japan to-day at a figure slightly in excess of that at which they were originally purchased, but, owing to the fluctuation of exchange, their dollar equivalent was somewhat below their book value. This we have now provided for and a further rise in exchange would not call for any immediate further revision. Provisions have also been made in the accounts, and \$250,000 set aside for a bonus for distribution among the staff (hear, hear). The reserve fund we propose to increase by \$35,555.55 the largest sum that our articles of association permit of our appropriating in this manner. There remains a sum of \$200,000 to be dealt with and with this we propose to pay a dividend of \$40 a share. If any further information is desired I shall be pleased to give it before moving the resolution of the report and accounts as presented by the board.

No questions were asked.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Barton seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Orange moved that the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. H. P. White, F. Maitland and A. J. Raymond be re-elected members of the Consulting Committee.

Captain Clarke seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Rogers proposed the re-appointment of Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and H. Percy Smith as auditors.

Mr. Ho Fook seconded and the motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman.—The dividends, gentlemen, will be ready on application to-morrow morning. Thanks for your attendance.

## THE LATE MR. JOHN WALTHER.

THE LATE MR. JOHN WALTHER.

We much regret to have to report the death of Mr. John Walther, which took place on 25th Feb. at Lywood, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

The late Mr. Walther was an old and valued servant of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. He went to China in 1859, and soon after joined the firm of Dent and Co., at Shanghai, with whom he remained until that firm ceased to exist. In 1868 he joined the Shanghai office of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. He subsequently became agent at Hankow, then acting manager at Yokohama, and afterwards was acting manager at Shanghai during Sir Ewen Cameron's absence. He occupied the position of sub-manager for a time at the head office, Hongkong, before being appointed inspector of branches. He filled the post of acting chief manager at Hongkong before finally leaving the East. He returned to England in 1888 to take up the position of sub-manager at the London agency, and was appointed to the Bank's London committee in 1902, a post which he held until he retired from the Bank's service in 1906. He served the Bank for nearly 40 years, with distinguished success, and will long be remembered with esteem and affection by the staff of the Bank, and all with whom he came in contact. During his long career in the East, and at home it can truly be said there were few more popular and highly respected men than Mr. John Walther. His remains were laid to rest on 29th Jan. in the picturesque churchyard at Hollington, St. Leonards-on-Sea. His funeral was attended by many of his old associates in the Bank's service, and others, all of whom fully realised the loss which the Bank and the community were bereaved of. The hymn, "Now the labourer's task is o'er," was sung by the choir over the grave, and amongst those present were the widow, the daughters, the Misses Evelyn, Sybil, and Marjorie Walther, and two of the sons, Mr. Geoffrey and Mr. Hugh Walther, and Mr. William Walther. Mr. Reginald Walther, the Misses Walther, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Walther, Mr. Hubert Hickman, Sir Thomas Jackson, Bart., Mr. A. M. Townsend, Mr. Allan Cameron (representing Sir Ewen Cameron, K.C.M.G.), Mr. H. P. Harrison, Mr. A. P. McEwen, Mr. Horace G. Harwood, Mr. E. H. O'Leary, Mr. Leonard Middleton, Mr. Alexander Campbell, Mr. Hindley, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Broadbent, and others. To Mrs. Walther and family we extend our sincerest sympathy.—L. & C.

## CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirty-eighth annual meeting of the shareholders of the China Fire Insurance Company, Ltd., was held at the Company's offices to-day. Mr. A. Haupt, president, and those present were:—Messrs. F. Goetz, D. M. Nissim, G. Ballou and R. Sheehan, directors; Captain Koach, Messrs. R. E. Barretto, J. L. Lina, A. H. M. de Silva, Ballenden, F. J. H. J. Orange, F. Smith, W. H. Wickham, Chan Pat, and Geo. L. Tomlin, secretary.

The secretary read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—The directors' report and statement of accounts for the past year having been in your hands for a fortnight, I will now, with your permission, adopt the usual course and consider them as read. It affords us much pleasure to be in the happy position to come before you with such favourable results for the year 1905, when a record profit was made by the company. This enables us to recommend to you \$500,000 dividend and \$500 bonus, or say 40 per cent on the paid up capital. This is the highest dividend paid in any one year and must be looked upon as exceptional, and cannot be expected every year, but only when the company is favoured with good fortune; \$500,000 to be added to the investment fluctuation account to provide for a temporary depreciation in certain companies' shares at the end of the year, but which have since materially increased in value. This year only shows a credit of \$340,855 owing to something over \$700,000 having been written off securities and listed in exchange on a sterling bank deposit, \$500,000 to be added to extra reserve account, which will then stand at \$320,440.65, which is a satisfactory addition to our reserves; \$5,000 bonus to office staff, which will no doubt have your approval. Turning to the working account, 1905, I am pleased to be able to point out an increase of \$18,881.67 over that carried forward for the year 1904, which must be considered satisfactory. The company's surveys have been reported on the properties under mortgage to us, and we are satisfied that we have ample security in each case. We have opened an agency at Newchwang, and trust to work that district successfully. I am sorry to tell you that since the new year has opened we have been involved in a somewhat serious loss by a conflagration at Bangkok. Before moving the adoption of the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year 1905, I shall be happy to answer any questions that may be put relating to the business before the meeting.

Mr. Orange, in responding, said: I am sure the shareholders, together with the secretary and staff, are to be congratulated on the very successful year which the company has experienced.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Smyth moved the confirmation of Messrs. D. M. Nissim, A. Babington, G. Ballou and R. Sheehan as directors.

Mr. Pallenden seconded, and the motion was adopted.

Mr. de Silva moved the re-appointment of Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe as auditors.

Mr. Barretto seconded and the motion was adopted.

The Chairman: That is all the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon.

## MIXED COURT AFFAIR.

BRITISH INDEMNITY CLAIM.

The Waiwupu has wired to H.E. Viceroy Tuan Fang at Nanjing, stating that Sir John Jordan, the British Minister, has urged the Board to settle the indemnity question as the result of the disturbances, in the International Settlement in December, 1905.

Sir John urges the payment of an indemnity to those British merchants and others who either suffered personal injuries or lost their property during the riots. But the Chinese Government maintains that, although foreign subjects suffered loss in property, yet a considerable number of Chinese merchants and others residing in before-mentioned Settlement suffered loss both in life and property, and moreover, as the disturbances occurred in the International Settlement which is out of the jurisdiction of the Chinese Authorities, the Chinese Government cannot pay any monetary indemnity to either British or other foreign subjects for losses.

The Hon. Mr. T. A. Taat, of Shanghai for all the correspondence and other documents that have passed between the Consular Body and his predecessor about the matter during the last one and half years.

It is stated that Sir John has informed the Board that the matter cannot be closed without the payment of a monetary indemnity by China losses suffered by British subjects at that critical moment.—S. D. British Subject.

## SEATTLE-ORIENTAL SHIPPING.

PROBABLE WITHDRAWAL OF LINES.

A Seattle dispatch of 26th January states:—If the shipping subsidy bill is not passed in its original form, or at least, providing for a mail subsidy to the Orient, the vessels of the Boston Steamship Company and the Boston Tow Boat Company will probably be withdrawn from the Seattle-Orient route, according to Mr. Frank Waterhouse, vice-president of the companies.

The fight on the ship subsidy bill, and the suggestion that a substitute measure be introduced which will provide merely for mail subsidies for the lines running to South America, has aroused the Oriental shippers. If this substitute is passed it would eliminate all Puget Sound lines. The only American line running from Puget Sound to a foreign port south is the American-Hawaiian steamship line. These vessels, however, carry no mail. They also make the voyage to Salina Cruz, Mexico, via Honolulu. Local representatives of the company stated that they didn't see how the subsidy would benefit them in any way.

The only American lines running from Seattle to the Orient are the Great Northern, the Boston Steamship Company and the Boston Tow Boat Company.

Mr. P. C. Convery, local representative of the Great Northern Steamship Company, stated that officially he knew nothing regarding the proposed substitute as the matter was solely in the hands of President Hill. He stated, however, that a subsidy would be of benefit to the line. The Great Northern Steamship Company has at all times declared that a subsidy was wanted.

Mr. Waterhouse stated that it was impossible for American ships to compete with foreign vessels without government aid, but that the withdrawal of the American ships would make no difference in rates.

"It would be a blow only to the men who are trying to build up the American merchant marine," said he.

## THE "TELEMACHUS" CASE.

7th Inst.

About a month ago, to be precise, on the 8th ultimo, Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, second police magistrate, was called upon by the Water Police to give his decision on a very important point of law which interested the shipping community in general and the captain of the steamship *Telemachus* in particular. The point, it will be remembered by readers of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, arose out of a summons taken out by Detective Sergeant Wilden against the master of the *Telemachus* and was, to the effect that the defendant failed to stop his ship when called upon to do so by the police on the 10th January last.

Mr. Goldring, the solicitor for the defence, immediately raised an objection on the point of law. He contended that section 2 of Ordinance No. 1899, under which the summons was taken out, read: "It shall be lawful for the Captain Superintendent or other officer of police not below the rank of sergeant—having just cause to suspect that any felony or misdemeanour has been or is about to be committed in the waters of the Colony, to enter at all times, as well as by night and day, into and upon any ship, boat, junk, or vessel (not being a ship of war, or a vessel having the status of a ship of war), and to take into custody all persons suspected of being concerned in such felony or misdemeanour, and to take charge of any property suspected of having been stolen or unlawfully obtained."

The intention of the police, he submitted, in signalling to the ship to stop was because they thought she was carrying an excess of passengers. To stop a ship, he contended, the police must suspect that a "felony or misdemeanour" was being committed on board. Carrying excess of passengers was not a "felony or misdemeanour" and therefore the police had no right to stop the ship for the purpose of counting the ship's passengers. The officer requested the ship to stop then he was acting *ultra vires*. This particular offence did not come under the meaning of the Ordinance, and Mr. Goldring held that no offence was committed. Inspector Langley, who conducted the case for the police, did not admit that the police signalled to the ship to count her passengers. If, for that according to the Ordinance, the harbour master, a police inspector, or sergeant could not stop a vessel without suspecting that a felony or misdemeanour was being committed on board, then masters of ships could do what they pleased when leaving the port, said the inspector, calling the Court's attention to the fact that the Ordinance under which the present charge was framed was the only Ordinance which gave power to the police to stop a vessel.

On the following day his Worship gave his decision which was in favour of the police. Carrying excess of passengers, he held, was a misdemeanour. Disobedience to any statutory order, he generally speaking, a misdemeanour," he said, "but a book which comprised all statutory orders would be nearly co-extensive with the statute book itself. Every crime is either a felony or misdemeanour. Every crime which amounts to treason or felony is so denominated in the definitions of crimes. All crimes not so denominated are misdemeanours."

Having decided the point of law the case was adjourned until the return of the *Telemachus*.

When the *Telemachus* returned from her trip to-day the case against the captain was called, and the evidence had been heard his Worship dismissed the summons.

## THE JAPAN SUGAR TAX BILL.

INTERESTING DEBATE.

On the 21st ultimo, the House of Representatives passed the Sugar Tax Reimbursement Bill, with an amendment to shorten its term of operation to two years—up March 31st, 1909.

Mr. Sugahara, in charge of the Bill, stated that the committee was divided into three—one in favour of the Bill in the form proposed by the Government, one in favour of shortening the term of operation, while the third was in entire opposition. The second opinion at last prevailed. It was maintained that the sugar-refining industry was now fully developed, and that the Government was fully equipped to produce industry in Japan, and that the primitive state, and it was necessary to encourage and develop the industry. For this purpose it was imperative to continue the legislation, but it was thought it would be quite effective, if the term of operation was shortened as much as possible.

Mr. Asano, an Independent, opposed the Bill. The inexperience and the uncertainty of the policy of the Government in regard to industry, said Mr. Asano, was fully demonstrated by this Bill. Mr. Sakamoto, Minister of Finance, and Mr. Wakatsuki, Vice-Minister, continued the speaker, had repeatedly condemned this measure years ago, as detrimental to the home industry. Now their views have undergone a sudden change, and they were no longer inclined to a protective policy. Under the guise of a desire to protect agricultural and industrial business alike, the Government would suppress the sugar-refining industry in Japan, and protect the sugar-refining industry in the United States.

The Government's policy was to tax a basic measure, which would result in a feeding the foreign sugar business, and killing the home sugar production. This opinion had been once expressed by the Finance Minister himself. The Formosan sugar-producing business was still in a very primitive state, and yet the Government proposed this Bill; the Government must have entirely forgotten the Formosan sugar industry, concluded the speaker.

In opposing Mr. Asano, the Finance Minister most emphatically insisted that the Government had forgotten the Formosan sugar industry. The total output of sugar in Formosa, Luchu and Oshima at present reached some 170,000,000 kins a year, and the annual production of refined sugar 180,000,000 kins, of which quantity, 80,000,000 kins was exported, representing 70,000,000 kins in value. The home production of raw sugar was insufficient to supply the demand for raw material, they must look abroad for supply to make good the deficit. The Customs duty on raw sugar was, added the Minister, 80 sen to 100 kins, and the rate on raw sugar Yaks. Were the things left in this state the sugar-refining industry in Japan would never find any chance for expansion.

In 1903, continued the Minister, the Government opposed the measure when it was proposed by the House, because the Customs duty on raw sugar was only 5 per cent, and *ad valorem*, and when the duty was reimposed, the Government would have lost all the revenue from this source. The Government was, in fact, in a position to develop the industry without the measure.

The growth of the Formosan industry was much hindered by the Russo-Japanese war, and the Government was convinced of the necessity of encouraging the sugar industry in Japan by forming a powerful refining company. The Minister invited the House to note the change in the situation of affairs in 1903 and in the present times.

The Bill was adopted by a large majority, and carried to the second reading, and finally passed, with an amendment to the term of operation as mentioned.

## MUCH ADJUDGED CLAIM.

JUDGMENT BY CONSENT.

At the Supreme Court on the 7th inst., before his Honour Mr. A. G. Wills, Justice Judge, presiding in Summary Jurisdiction, the case in which A. G. de Rocha, clerk to Messrs. Goldbeck, Macgregor and Co., sued Ching Hing Hing, widow of No. 6, U-Yan Lane, for the recovery of the sum of \$1,000, being money advanced by plaintiff to defendant upon a certain agreement, the terms of which were not carried out by the said defendant, the money thus becoming returnable to the plaintiff. This case had been several times called, and as often adjourned on various pretexts.

Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for the plaintiff, the defendant being represented by Mr. O. D. Thomson.

On the case being called Mr. Grist said the matter was settled, and he understood that his friend would formally consent to judgment in terms prayed.

His Honour said he was glad to hear it. Mr. O. D. Thomson said he was instructed to consent to judgment for the amount claimed, together with the sum of \$50, being the amount of agreed costs, but he would ask for a stay of execution for a fortnight.

Mr. Grist said he had no objection. Judgment for plaintiff accordingly.

## WEST RIVER NOTES.

BANDITS TERRORISING THE DISTRICT.

The West River pirates and robbers are displaying a lot of activity lately, and right on the pillage of Wong Pa Tao, reported in your last Wuchow News, comes the news that the important village of Si-ning, near Dosing, has been robbed and looted and that also a large number of women and children were stolen and taken away by the pirates. The village of Si-ning is just outside the City of Dosing, where the West River steamers call for passengers and stage cargo, and the people of this neighbourhood have long been threatened with a visit from the pirate gangs.

The villagers took no notice of the threat as most of them were away from home, but when the pirates came close to Dosing, they thought it was most probable that the pirates would have the daring to visit them. On the evening of the 25th February, the pirates surrounded the village in large numbers, and started firing some of the houses. As the villagers left their burning dwellings they were assailed by the pirates, and the villagers put up a hard fight, with the result that the pirates were slowly but surely getting the worst of the fight.

The pirates finding themselves rather badly handled by the mercenary villagers beat a hasty retreat, but nevertheless managed to take away a few of the village women and children with them. News of their fracas was immediately reported to the Dosing Officials, who in turn communicated with the Wuchow authorities.

A steam-launch with about 40 rowers were despatched to Si-ning via Dosing, and it is pleasant to have to record, that very much to general surprise (and probably their own) the soldiers succeeded in capturing two live pirates, and also recovered a woman and a couple of children, that were taken by the pirates. The rest of the pirate gang, with their prisoners, managed to escape. The two live pirates captured, and the women and children recovered, were sent to Wuchow from Dosing, for an official inquiry. The soldiers, in addition to capturing the above two pirates, captured another pirate, who however put up a fight, but was promptly overpowered by his numerous assistants and was thereupon decapitated, and his head showed inside a box, to be produced before the officials as evidence of the soldier's valour.

On the arrival of the launch came alongside the Customs pontoon to report its arrival in port. A number of coolie women scrambled on board to carry away the passenger luggage, and one buxom dame asked one of the soldiers if he would give her his luggage to carry ashore.

Here, carry this box, said the soldier. The box, which was a box, was then taken hold of by the woman, who gave one glance at the soldier's contents, smiled, and then, dropping it like an extra-hot potato, she ran for her life, shrieking all the time. The box she had picked up contained the decapitated head of the pirate. The two pirates captured looked for all the world just like the ordinary cargo-coolies, and from their appearance, one could hardly credit it that the poor specimens of humanity, loaded down with chains were real live pirates. We live in an unromantic age, and doubt the day of the picturesque pirate is finished. The modern substitute certainly does not come up to expectations.

The above pirates are now safely lodged inside the yamen, and their heads will no doubt adorn the yamen gates in a day or two.

## CUSTOMS CHANGES.

The many friends of Mr. T. H. Wavell, Acting Tidewater and Harbour Master of the Samshui Customs, will be glad to learn that he has been transferred to Chefoo on promotion, as Chief Examiner. Mr. Wavell's departure from Samshui is greatly regretted by his friends. Mr. F. Benson, Customs transferred from Canton, succeeds Mr. Wavell as Tidewater and Harbour Master at Samshui.

Mr. P. Kremer of the Wuchow Customs was the recipient of hearty congratulations from his numerous friends, on the occasion of his promotion.

## RIVER.

Thanks to a fresher last week, the river is rapidly rising. Tai-ping-shah bar is, however, still troubling ship-masters on the West River and the majority of the West River fleet have been detained for a few hours on the bar, every trip up. The rise of the river is hailed with delight by the Marine community.

## THE ATTIOPUM MOVEMENT.

The Peking Government is consulting Sir John Jordan, British Minister, with regard to the despatch of a "special" delegate to Calcutta to inspect the packing and exportation of Indian opium into Hongkong and Shanghai, so as to know the exact quantity imported into China, and to see if any steps should be taken to prevent its further sale in the country.

The home-grown opium is to be wholly wiped out as ordered by a recent Imperial Edict.

The Wavell is also consulting the French, Portuguese and Dutch Ministers in Peking, concerning the prohibition of the smuggling of raw and prepared opium into the various Treaty Ports in China from Tongking, Macao, and the Dutch possessions beyond Singapore, and the Dutch Government is also looking into the question of the opium trade in this Empire may be effectively carried out in the Provinces.

As this is a vital matter in connection with the re-organization of our country, and in view of the vast destruction this foreign drug has caused, among our fellow nationals during the course of the last sixty years or more since its introduction into China, we sincerely hope the before-mentioned four Ministers will assist our Government to stamp out the evil of opium, and to the benefit of the people.

## SALVAGE OF THE "APENNINE."

Acting under instructions from the owners, Mr. Geo. P. Lamont, auctioneer, put up for sale by public auction on the 5th inst., at noon at his salesroom in Duddell Street, the German steamer *Apenrade*, as she now lies sunk off Stonecutters' Island, with all her machinery, gear, anchors, chains, fittings and appurtenances.

There was very little competition, and when bidding reached \$2,000, the vessel became the property of Mr. Chin Kee. It is understood that the *Apenrade* was badly buried in the mud, forward to the hulk, and she will be broken up for scrap iron.

## EXTRAORDINARY DECEPTION AT SHANGHAI.

NATIVE BRIDEGROOM FINDS HIS BRIDE IS A MAN.

The native world around us was in a high state of excitement yesterday and Saturday, about a man who was exhibited at the City extraordinary and grotesque spectacles.

On Thursday night last, the services of the native police in a village on the Pootung side of the River, right opposite the foreign Settlements, and in which rather swagger-wedding festivities had been proceeding all day, were suddenly requisitioned under circumstances which speedily had the whole country-side in an uproar. It was the bridegroom himself who summoned the authorities, and had deputed the man looked in his gorgeous silk marriage robes and ceremonial hat, as he rushed into the magistrate's yamen, and he wildly distracted tones declared that his bride should accompany him back to his house and arrest his bride. The man is a tailor in pretty good circumstances, and the Magistrate, recognising that something very serious must be wrong, lost no time in complying with his request. A posse of runners, therefore, proceeded to the house in question, where the bridegroom, bursting into the reception chamber, pointed to a shrinking figure in female bridal garments, who crouched on the floor surrounded and guarded by a number of indignant men, also in festive array, and told the runners: "There is your prisoner, take him away."

"Him?" said the leader of the runners, inquiringly.

"Yes, him," said the bridegroom, dashing his official hat upon the ground and stamping on it, "my wife, whom I married this morning and was hoping to be happy and prosperous with is a man, a swindler, who has bamboozled me out of my wife, with \$500 of money, if the wretch's plans had not miscarried. Take him to the yamen!"

It was true. The prisoner thus dramatically handed over to the authorities, turned out to be a man named I-shu Ah-mei, who, taking advantage of a somewhat effeminate face and female attire, had taken up his quarters in the village and passed for a woman. In course of time he became engaged to a tailor named Man Ah-wo, and actually went through a form of marriage with him on Thursday morning, intending, as he has since confessed, to leave the house on some pretext or other and escape with the jewelry and money which he had obtained from his "husband." The fraud was discovered in the evening in some way or other, however, and the scene that followed we have just described on the authority of persons who were present, and who witnessed it.

On Friday morning, the prisoner, still in the female attire, was taken over to Shanghai and lodged in the City Magistrate's yamen. Four accomplices, and "go-betweens," the men who had negotiated the "marriage" with the unfortunate tailor, were arrested and taken over to Shanghai at the same time. The trial, which took place on Friday, excited the greatest interest, and the Court was filled to overflowing while the hearing was proceeding. In reply to the Magistrate the prisoner gave the following account of himself. He was 23 years of age; in early life he was apprenticed to a tailor, but afterwards took up the business of a story-teller and ballad singer. When he was 18 years old a barber named Shui-tong told him that he would look remarkably well in woman's clothing, and suggested that it might be a good thing to adopt the idea. Prisoner thought over the suggestion and at last decided to act upon it, so he dressed himself as a girl, let his hair grow long in front, and in a few months was so completely changed that everybody thought he was a woman. In fact so successfully was he disguised that he became the victim of quite a scandal, for from seeing him so frequently with the barbers, some of the village gossips set him down as the latter's paramour.

In course of time the barber met with reverses in business, and wanting money very badly, he asked the prisoner if he would consent to get married. Prisoner agreed and with the help of the "go-betweens," each of whom received \$4, was engaged to the tailor. The rest of the story has already been related, but we are sorry not to be able to record the incident in more detail, if such a person ever really existed, has also been laid by the heels. He got clean away, however, the day before the marriage, and, according to the prisoner, took most of the tailor's jewelry and money with him.

The prisoner, who had already been given 200 blows over in Pootung, as a hint of what was to come, was given 500 more by the City Magistrate, and ordered to be exhibited in a portable cage at each of the City gates, as well as being paraded through the principal streets of the City for a period of three days. But it was found nearly impossible to carry out the latter part of the sentence, on account of the crowds that thronged the streets, rendering a close view of the prisoner very difficult to obtain. Yesterday, however, he was to be seen with somewhat greater ease at the North Gate, where a representative of this paper inspected the poor wretch.

He was pale, and no wonder after the misadventure he had received from the runners and factors, who had been looking at him with evident interest in a mixture of terror and suffering. His face was pale and powdered, the rouge on his cheeks and lips showing up with horrible effect against the ghastly pallor of the rest of his face; his hair was braided like a Chinese lady's; his eyebrows pencilled like a Foochow Road singing girl's, and the eyes were closed in the coma of exhaustion and agony. He was dressed in a borrowed silk coat, cut in the feminine fashion, and a pair of blue silk trousers trimmed with torn red ribbon. His feet were not bound, but they were very small and the neat shoes on them were such as a native woman in good circumstances would wear. He was altogether a sorry object to gaze upon, and notwithstanding the seriousness of the offence which he had committed, few could resist a thrill of pity on being presented. The results of native punishment were never more, laughably exhibited than in this case.

## SALVAGE OF THE "APENNINE."

JUDGMENT BY CONSENT.

At the Supreme Court on the 7th inst., before his Honour Mr. A. G. Wills, Justice Judge, presiding in Summary Jurisdiction, the case in which A. G. de Rocha, clerk to Messrs. Goldbeck, Macgregor and Co., sued Ching Hing Hing, widow of No. 6, U-Yan Lane, for the recovery of the sum of \$1,000, being money advanced by plaintiff to defendant upon a certain agreement, the terms of which were not carried out by the said defendant, the money thus becoming returnable to the plaintiff. This case had been several times called, and as often adjourned on various pretexts.

Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for the plaintiff, the defendant being represented by Mr. O. D. Thomson.

On the case being called Mr. Grist said the matter was settled, and he understood that his friend would formally consent to judgment in terms prayed.

His Honour said he was glad to hear it. Mr. O. D. Thomson said he was instructed to consent to judgment for the amount claimed, together with the sum of \$50, being the amount of agreed costs, but he would ask for a stay of execution for a fortnight.

Mr. Grist said he had no objection. Judgment for plaintiff accordingly.

## WEST RIVER NOTES.

BANDITS TERRORISING THE DISTRICT.

The West River pirates and robbers are displaying a lot of activity lately, and right on the pillage of Wong Pa Tao, reported in your last Wuchow News, comes the news that the important village of Si-ning, near Dosing, has been robbed and looted and that also a large number of women and children were stolen and taken away by the pirates. The village of Si-ning is just outside the City of Dosing, where the West River steamers call for passengers and stage cargo, and the people of this neighbourhood have long been threatened with a visit from the pirate gangs.

The villagers took no notice of the threat as most of them were away from home, but when the pirates came close to Dosing, they thought it was most probable that the pirates would have the daring to visit them. On the evening of the 25th February, the pirates surrounded the village in large numbers, and started firing some of the houses. As the villagers left their burning dwellings they were assailed by the pirates, and the villagers put up a hard fight, with the result that the pirates were slowly but surely getting the worst of the fight.

The pirates finding themselves rather badly handled by the mercenary villagers beat a hasty retreat, but nevertheless managed to take away a few of the village women and children with them. News of their fracas was immediately reported to the Dosing Officials, who in turn communicated with the Wuchow authorities.

A steam-launch with about 40 rowers were despatched to Si-ning via Dosing, and it is pleasant to have to record, that very much to general surprise (and probably their own) the soldiers succeeded in capturing two live pirates, and also recovered a woman and a couple of children, that were taken by the pirates. The rest of the pirate gang, with their prisoners, managed to escape. The two live pirates captured, and the women and children recovered, were sent to Wuchow from Dosing, for an official inquiry. The soldiers, in addition to capturing the above two pirates, captured another pirate, who however put up a fight, but was promptly overpowered by his numerous assistants



